Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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FOOTBALLERS REACH THEIR GOAL OF FUNDRAISING FOR SAM

Sam Fellows, with fundraising footballers and his family

GENEROUS footballers turned out for a charity football tournament to help raise funds which will go towards helping a Wednesbury boy walk.

Sam Fellows, five, suffers from cerebral palsy but has been told he is ready to have a life-changing operation by surgeons.

Organised by Sam's uncle Grant and other colleagues at building company Wates, about 40 players took to the pitch at The Way on School Street, Wolverhampton on Saturday afternoon. Parents Jen and Simon and friends are busy collecting funds for Sam's operation and aftercare and have already collected over £17,000 – part way to their target of £35,000 – after funding was pulled in March.

Mum-of-two Mrs Fellows said she hopes the weekend's fundraising bonanza will collect over £1,000 for the operation which will hopefully be completed next year. The tournament could bring in as much as £800, while a sponsored swim by friend Julie Green is hoped to have raised £500.

Mrs Fellows, 37, of Park Lane, said: "If we can aim for February, March for the operation then come the summer he will be able to enjoy things a bit more. The sooner we can get to the target the better."

Last month Sam started reception class at Albert Pritchard Infant School in Wednesbury and he is on the way to becoming a young celebrity. He will turn on Wednesbury's Christmas lights on November 25.

His parents noticed he was struggling with his mobility and he was referred to Birmingham Children's Hospital in mid-2013. By that September, he had undergone an MRI scan and two days before Christmas, Mr and Mrs Fellows were told Sam had diplegic cerebral palsy, which causes constant tightness in muscles.

Other fundraisers will include bag packing at Willenhall's Tesco store on Saturday and a Christmas Party at the Saddlers Club on December 21, with entertainment for children from 7.15-8.15pm and then fun for their parents featuring Britain's Got Talent star Stuart Arnold. To donate to Sam's appeal, visit his Gofundme page at www.gofundme.com/22p7ax7s.

Businesses lose days of trade while repairs carried out

PHONE LINES CUT AS FIRM RAIDED

BUSINESSES have had their premises trashed and lost days of trade after phone lines were sabotaged on a Wednesbury industrial estate.

Manufacturing company Clevedon Fasteners, based on Old Park Industrial Estate, was ransacked after phone lines were cut, while other firms have lost days of trade with no access to phones or the internet. Raiders at Clevedon Fasteners stole a set of van keys and trashed an office, with West Midlands Police appealing for information.

Report by Clare Butler

Neil Webster, the operations manager at the manufacturing company, said the businesses had been experiencing faults with the telephone but did not 'expect anything like this'.

He told the Express & Star: "They cut the main telegraph line and then raided us. It's the first time we have come across it as we have only been here five weeks.

"We had been experiencing faults with the line but we didn't expect anything like this.

"I got a phone call in the evening off our security company who alerted us to what had happened. It left us without internet and telephone too.

Dashboard

"They ransacked my desk and found the key to the van but the odd thing was nothing was stolen. They ripped the dashboard off the transit van and police think they were after the tracking system.

"It is concerning when we've only just moved here."

Another company affected by the phone lines being cut was BSJ Fixings, who have been based at the estate since 1999.

Pally Sagoo, a director at the firm, revealed it was not the first time businesses on the estate had suffered, suggesting the phone lines had been cut with a hacksaw. He said: "This has happened before and they come and cut the phone lines which disconnects our internet and other appliances. We feel it must be the same sort of people because they know what wires to cut and how the system works.

"They cut them on the ground with a hacksaw and then it leaves the businesses without phones or internet all day.

"It just seems like nothing can be done and it's absolutely frustrating."

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "Police responded to reports of a break-in at a factory in Sandwell.

"Clevedon Fasteners Ltd on Old Park Road in Wednesbury was broken into.

"Four men forced entry to the building and stole a set of van keys; the van itself was not stolen. A fire door was damaged during the incident.

"The investigation is on-going, anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101."

Around 10 businesses trade from the estate which has industrial units in three distinct blocks.

Neil Webster from Clevtec, left, and Paul Bates from BSJ Fixing, at Old Park Industrial Estate in Wednesbury

PLANNING

Martial arts centre gets the thumbs-up

A NEW gym and Chinese martial arts centre has been given the go-ahead to open in the heart of West Bromwich.

The Shaolin Mantis Project will deliver a 'unique style of Chinese martial arts', giving young people the chance to keep active and learn a new skill.

Bosses behind the scheme also said they were hopeful the centre could help divert young people away from crime by giving them something different to do. The martial arts centre will open in Union Street, at the site of a former electrical suppliers.

West Bromwich councillor Bawa Dhallu said: "I think it is a very good idea. It will help to keep more young people away from the street and create less problems."

ENERGY

Power plant in the pipeline for town

PLANS for a power plant in Oldbury have been submitted. A power generating facility surrounded by 4.5 metre high acoustic fencing is proposed on land off Parsonage Street.

It would be a Short Term Operating Reserve power generating facility, capable of producing 20 megawatts and providing emergency reserves to the National Grid.

The half hectare site will comprise of 10 dual fuel generators within galvanised steel containers.

TRANSPORT

Man is accused of obstructing trains

A MAN has appeared in court accused of obstructing trains travelling on the line serving Sandwell and Dudley station. Trains were delayed in Wolverhampton last Friday. British Transport Police estimate that the total hold-ups for all services came to more than 36 hours and cost the rail industry £150,000.

Joseph Bradley, aged 24 and of no fixed address, appeared before Walsall Magistrates' Court on Monday charged with malicious obstruction connected with the incident. He was remanded into custody and is next due to appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 14.

INSIDE

Mirth-making minion visits

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Salvation Army on march with centre

The donation centre

THE Salvation Army has opened its first donation centre, in West Bromwich.

The building, which was the former Blockbusters store in Dudley Road, has the specific purpose of collecting donations of items from the public to sell in their charity shops, both locally and across the UK.

The Donation Centre, was born from the need of more donations to stock The Salvation Army's chain of charity shops – with the thought being that an out-of-town and purpose-built centre is more convenient than a small shop in the centre of town. The Salvation Army hopes that this new centre will see a great increase in donations, together with a greater breadth of goods, including furniture and other household items. "I am very proud to be opening our new format donation centre which will combine the ease of dropping off at one of our clothing banks with the friendliness of a charity shop," said manager Dennis Hill.

"I believe our new concept will help us make progress on our social, environmental and economical goals, all of which benefit the good causes we support." Dennis added: "The convenience of free parking and the ability to pull up outside the front will make it easy for everyone wanting to do some good with their unwanted items. There is also a small charity shop on site which will be selling a selection of the donations that aren't sent to other shops."

The easy access centre also provides a handy pick-up service.

The Salvation Army Donation Centre is located at 69 Dudley Street,

West Bromwich B70 9RL and is open Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm. There are also two donation banks on site with 24-hour access. For further enquiries please ask in store or call 0121 713 1960.

Rundown car park in line for redevelopment

A DERELICT car park that sits opposite an arson-hit former Sandwell College building has been earmarked for redevelopment.

Bosses have submitted an application for outline planning permission for the site in Crocketts Lane, Smethwick, claiming it would be 'ideal for housing'.

Council leader Steve Eling said 'the sooner it gets redeveloped the better'.

He explained: "At the minute I think it would be up for housing, as it is an ideal site for that. It would depend on the plans put forward but the sooner it gets redeveloped the better

"The council would not be the developers as we do not own most of the land around there so if housing was to be put on there then a suitable developer would be found.

"I know that there were talks about linking in land with the redevelopment of the college site too, which is something that we are concerned about following the arson attacks, although it does not belong to us.

Flames

"All the area around there could do for redevelopment for housing – it is something that we always welcome within the borough."

The derelict former Sandwell College building which sits opposite was targeted by arsonists for a fourth time back in August, as flames ripped through the remains of the site and road closures were put in place. The Smethwick campus closed when college courses were centralised by the opening of a £77m campus in West Bromwich in 2012.

A design and access statement provided in planning documents states: "Its previous use was for a car park which ceased in 2016. However since the relocation of Sandwell College to new premises in West Bromwich, the car park has been underused.

"New development on the former college site for residential will not generate a need for its continued use.

"Therefore, as it is located within a primarily residential area, redevelopment for housing would be considered the most appropriate use." Council planners will make a decision in the coming weeks.

Millionaire's mansion to be built

The computer-generated image of the mansion, which will be Birmingham's most expensive home

PLANS to build a £4 million mansion in Edgbaston have been given the green light by city planners – which will make it the most expensive residential property to ever go on Birmingham's market.

The seven-bedroom estate will feature a swimming pool, steam room, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym and a squash court.

Birmingham City Council has given developers Woodbourne Group the go ahead to start work on the 46 Westfield Road property.

It will be on 0.75 acres of land. The mansion has been given an estimated value of almost £4.1million. This beats the previous record in the city by half a million pounds, which was a property located in 4 Woodbourne Road.

The property will be boast 10 bathrooms, seven of which will be en suite.

It will also feature a drawing room, reception room, family room, dining room, a kitchen diner, dedicated laundry room, utility rooms, cloak store, an entrance hall and a tandem garage. But buyers will also be able to enjoy a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, gym, cinema, squash court, table tennis and snooker room and a luxury garden building. The mansion is due to be completed by early 2018.

The start of its development marks the first stage in a £31.7million-pound pipeline for Woodbourne Group since the relaunch of its development arm earlier this year.

Travellers soon moved on under new powers

TRAVELLERS were kicked off a site in Walsall in just 24 hours, under new powers to take robust action against illegal camps.

A court injunction granting Walsall Council greater powers to remove travellers from sites across the borough in just 24 hours was recently granted.

The council is just the third local authority in the country to successfully obtain an injunction from the county court and now has increased powers to restrict the setting up of encampments or anti social behaviour at 12 specific sites, including Delves Green Common, which was targeted by travellers recently.

Approximately 14 caravans were encamped on Delves Green on the afternoon of October 6, prompting Walsall Council to work with West Midlands Police and Sandwell council to enforce the injunction and use its powers to remove the travellers.

At around 1.30pm the following day, bailiffs enforced the order resulting in the travellers leaving the site. Three of the caravans then moved on to Manor Farm, Floyds Lane, Rushall in order to set up an unauthorised encampment. They were moved swiftly from that site and told that the council would enforce the injunction order across the borough as well as use its common law powers to move the travellers off its land.

Councillor Sean Coughlan, leader of Walsall Council, said: "Walsall council is proud that by working on a multi-agency basis they have achieved this success."

Let it go with ice extravaganza

DISNEY on Ice are bringing the winter wonderland of Academy Award-winning movie Frozen to Birmingham during half-term week. Families are being invited to join in with the big hit song Let It Go as they join royal sisters Anna and Elsa, snowman Olaf, Kristoff and Sven as they journey to discover that true love is the most magical power of all.

This new full-length ice dance is at the Barclaycard Arena for 11 performances from Tuesday to Sunday, October 25-30. This will include morning, matinee and evening performances. Contact the ticket hotline on 0844 33 88 222 or visit theticketfactory.com website.

Rhyme time with Alan at institute

THERE'S music and memories at the West Bromwich Institute on Tuesday at 7.30 pm when folk artist and historian Alan Timber both entertains and informs.

His talk, entitled 'Rhyme Nor Reason I,' will feature songs, stories and poems from around the world, with Alan also providing guitar accompaniment.

Ex-primary school head Alan is also a regular fixture on the West Midland folk scene.

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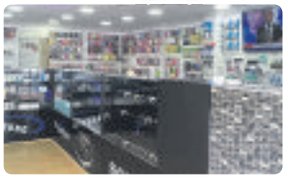
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Society again launch fund to support communities

DUDLEY Building Society is launching its Community Support Fund this month for the third consecutive year.

The fund is aimed at helping small projects and communities within the Black Country and the 158-year-old society is offering two donations of £500 and five additional opportunities to receive £100.

The chosen applicants will also receive support from the society through publicity.

It is focused on areas around the branches in Dudley, Gornal, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Kingswinford, as part of the society's larger community strategy.

This will see increased support of community events and volunteering opportunities within the next twelve months.

Society chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "The communities around our branches and head office are extremely important to everyone here at Dudley Building Society.

"As a mutual organisation it is imperative we support others, the launch of this year's fund for the third year running shows a continuous relationship to ensure the local communities are at the core of everything we do. We want to ensure we add value and really make a difference."

The deadline is 5pm on Friday, November 4. Anyone wishing to apply for the fund can request an application form from one of the local branches or download an application by visiting www.dudleybuildingsociety.co.uk/community-support-fund-2016

Get booked up for library fun

SANDWELL libraries have a packed programme of events and activities for families this half-term. From crafts to film shows, mini-beast encounters to hula hooping, there is something for everyone.

Some of the highlights are:

Visitors to Cradley Heath Library on Saturday can come face-to-face with a number of birds of prey as Hawks 'N' More will be flying in at 11am. Tickets are available from the library.

On Wednesday, Hamstead Library is the venue for beastly goings-on when the Sandwell Storyplayers bring stories to life for children aged 4+.

Friday, sees Wednesbury Library host theatre at 3.30pm. Oddsocks Theatre present their hilarious production of the Bard's Best Bits…of Romeo and Juliet.

Calling all bakers! Would-be bakers are encouraged to visit Great Bridge Library's Bake Off Competition for under 16s, so why not get baking and bring in your cake to be judged from 2.30pm on Friday.

For more details please like us on Facebook at Sandwell Libraries, follow us on twitter @sandwellllibs or check online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

Last council-owned care home to go

Fountain Court, in Smethwick

CASH-STRAPPED Sandwell Council is set to close down the last council-owned care home in the borough.

It follows a 12-week consultation by the authority about the future of Fountain Court, which cares for 16 older people with dementia.

Although 'the majority of people' who took part in the survey backed keeping the service running as it does at the moment, chiefs are set to decommission the home.

They were due to rubber-stamp the recommended decision at a meeting yesterday, Wednesday.

A report to the meeting highlights how: "The majority of people engaged supported the 'stay as is' position."

However, the recommendation for the meeting is for 'Fountain Court, Smethwick [to] be decommissioned and the current residents and staff be transferred to Sandwell Community Caring Trust, an alternative care home provider from the independent sector'.

Council leader Steve Eling said: "We've been out to consultation on the future of Fountain Court.

"It's not viable – or certainly very difficult for it to be viable going forward. Clearly people would prefer it to remain open and that's understandable.

"But the other preference is to move people on block from Fountain Court and that is what we will be doing along with Sandwell Community Caring Trust.

"They will take over the running of Fountain Court and are building a new home. When that is completed people will move there.

"I think we're getting something which is the best of both worlds."

Food court opens up bringing in 35 jobs

A NEW 150-seat food court has opened up for business in West Bromwich's Queens Square shopping centre, offering a boost to town centre trade.

The court, which includes new chains including Burger King, El Taco Loco and Roosters Fried Chicken, has created 35 new jobs.

West Bromwich Central ward councillor Bawa Dhallu said the new food court was a positive addition to the 'thriving' town centre.

He said: "I very much welcome any new businesses so was very pleased when I heard the news.

"We are always encouraging people to come and visit West Bromwich and businesses to take up empty units. I think the town centre is thriving at the moment and there are also some big companies interested in moving in.

"Hopefully one day all the shopping centres will be full. The more people that come to West Bromwich the better – I welcome this with open arms."

The new food court officially opened on Saturday.

It is the latest positive step for the town centre, which saw a new innovative market run for the first time earlier this month.

Traders

Online sellers using eBay and Gumtree have been encouraged to take part in the 'Gumbay Sunday' market Gum-bay Sunday which launched on October 2 and offers a 'collection point' for online traders.

Car boot sellers and established market traders can also take up spots on the High Street market stalls and the specialist trading area between Kings and Queens Square shopping centres.

Gum-bay Sunday is planned for the first Sunday in every month with trading from 10am to 4pm. Queens Square, which has over 50 units, has received multi-million pound investment in recent years.

The centre originally opened in 1971 and is situated as the main retail link between New Square Shopping Centre and West Bromwich high street.

Speaking about the new food court, a spokesman for Queen Square Shopping Centre said earlier this year: "These additional retailers will simply strengthen an already up-and-coming area."

Cemetery flies flag for fifth year

Mayor, Julie Webb with students, from left, Christian Holloway, Jamie-Lee Broadhead and Joe Osborne

VOLUNTEERS and students who care for Tipton Cemetery are celebrating its Green Flag status – for the fifth year running.

Sandwell Mayor Councillor Julie Webb joined Friends of Tipton Cemetery and council staff to raise the flag at the cemetery in Alexandra Road.

Students from the nearby ACE Academy joined guests to celebrate gaining Green Flag status.

Members of the Friends of Tipton Cemetery and academy students worked together to create a special peace garden designed to be a quiet area where families can remember loved ones.

Pauline Hodgetts, chair of the friends group, said: "Tipton Cemetery has served the area since 1873 and is not only full of history but is also a peaceful space where nature can thrive and families can come to remember their loved ones." Sandwell Mayor, Councillor Julie Webb, said: "I'm very proud to have been invited to this special flag-raising ceremony.

"It was lovely to see this innovative project at first-hand including the wonderful peace garden and having the chance to meet students from the ACE Academy and members of the Friends' group."

Students from Years 9 and 10 visit the site on a regular basis and help maintain and improve it for visitors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free parking to boost shopping

FREE parking will be available on council-run car parks across Dudley borough on Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas.

Council bosses hope the offer will increase the amount of people heading into the borough's main shopping areas when charges are suspended on December 10, 17 and 24.

Dudley Council also said it intends to offer free parking on one late shopping night, though it is yet to decide which night.

Chiefs reckon it will boost trade across the borough.

Star guests visit for blues reunion

TELEVISION presenters Suzi Perry and Adrian Chiles are due to attend the next performance by Red Lemon Electric Blues Band in their home town of Stourbridge.

The group reunited for sell-out 30th anniversary concerts last year. The band will appear in Stourbridge Town Hall again on December 16 with tickets priced £22. Suzi, whose father Tony managed the band, used to dance on stage with the group in the 1980s and Adrian, from Hagley, was a bass player in the soul band's early days. Call 0870 320 7000 for tickets.

Join museum hunt for creepy critters

YOUNGSTERS are invited to go on a hunt for rats and spiders as part of a special event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Creepy Critters event is from Saturday to October 30 at the museum on Tipton Road, Dudley. Fearless youngsters will be able to explore and learn about the pests that plagued the Black Country in the old days, and get hands on with some crafts.

See www.bclm.co.uk/events/creepy-critters for more information.

Ghostly goings-on at sea life centre

FAMILIES can enjoy spooky half-term fun at The National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. A 'Spooky Seas' event runs at the venue from October 22 to 31 and visitors can see jelly fish species, moray eels and other amazing sea creatures.

Amy Langham, general manager at the centre, said: "As we celebrate our 20th anniversary year, our Halloween event promises to be bigger and better than ever. For more information visit www.SEALIFE.co.uk/birmingham/

Apartments scheme

PLANS have been drawn up to transform old offices into residential apartments.

The office space above West Cross Shopping Centre in West Bromwich would be turned into 10 apartments under the plans.

The offices are currently vacant.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

MEMO to all those bad losers in the Commons complaining that MPs must be given a vote on Brexit. You've already cast your vote. You had it on June 23, just like the rest of us.

WHERE fat comes from. Fancying a snack on the motorway, I bought a BLT sandwich in a service station. The print on the wrapper boasted about the crisp lettuce and vine-ripened tomatoes. The small print revealed it contained 770 calories – equivalent to nearly three Mars Bars.

FOUR bearded Asian men were thrown off a flight from Manchester to Turkey after allegedly being disruptive and playing an audio track containing the repeated word "bomb." The key word here is "allegedly". Some Thomas Cook flight staff say it was some of the worst behaviour they had ever seen and upset some passengers. But the men, aged 18-23, only admit to being "a bit loud" and having "a laugh and a joke." And that's it – claim, counter-claim and accusations of racism chucked about. In the 21st century there should be not an ounce of doubt. How much would it cost to equip every airliner with CCTV? If police and prison officers wear body cameras, why not flight attendants? It's hardly rocket science to record the incident, transmit it to police at the arrival airport and have the magistrates waiting for when the "bit loud" passengers land. This way, gentlemen . . .

IN a matter of hours the internet can create a fad that would have taken months to organise in the old days. The latest is the scourge of "scary clowns," terrorising people all over Britain in the run-up to Halloween. Before that it was the ice-bucket challenge. Come to think of it, a bucketful of iced water on a chilly October evening might be the perfect way to deal with scary clowns.

IN their defence, at least the scary clowns are succeeding at being scary. This is in contrast to real clowns who repeatedly fail to be amusing. When did you last see a funny clown? How many nights at the circus are ruined when a succession of dazzlingly athletic and dangerous acts is suddenly interrupted by half-a-dozen linguistically-challenged and deeply unfunny old men with fake buckets of water and an exploding car?

REPORTS claim that the loss of two black contestants from Strictly has "prompted accusations of racism on social media," It is bizarre how that phrase "on social media" gives some sort of authenticity to a story. In this age of brainless instant communication with no qualifications required and anonymous Tweeters, we should try replacing the words "on social media" with "by a bunch of nobodies."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hundreds of operations fall at the last

MORE than 600 operations were cancelled at the last minute at hospitals across the Black Country and Staffordshire in just three months.

Staff shortages, a lack of beds and operating theatres not being available due to unexpected admissions can lead to procedures being called off at short-notice.

Increased numbers of emergency patients has also put pressure on resources at some sites. While some were affected by the junior doctor's strikes in April which saw hospital bosses across the country forced to cancel thousands of operations and out-patient appointments.

In the Black Country, the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross in Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Hospital, postponed the most between April and June this year. Chief executive David Loughton said: "We work hard to ensure that operations are able to proceed as scheduled, unless there is a clinical reason.

"We would like to reassure patients that operations are only cancelled as a last resort, usually when there is a high demand for emergency operations. Ensuring patients get safe and timely treatment is our priority." A total of 137 appointments were cancelled compared with 84 by Sandwell's hospital trust, 68 in Dudley and 37 at Walsall Manor.

Philip Thomas-Hands, chief operating officer at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "The Trust does all it can to avoid cancelling patients' operations on the day of admission as we appreciate how distressing and inconvenient this is for our patients."

Jail for fraudster who targeted pensioner

Report by John Scott

A GRANDMOTHER who fleeced over £35,000 from a 'vulnerable' pensioner has started a 27-month prison sentence.

Julia Brennan was also part of a £17,300 fraud on the same victim with her brother Timothy Hale, a 56-year-old builder.

He was jailed at an earlier hearing while she was remanded on bail for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports. Hale targeted Ken Morris while project managing the construction of a £30,000 garage at the home of the 71-year-old, who is hard of hearing and has failing sight.

The victim had fought to get his money back after spending £19,500 on a Mercedes that turned out to be stolen. He was awarded compensation and even had a charge on the home of the seller but had not received a penny 10 years later.

Training

He explained the situation to Hale who – realising his unmarried client was wealthy – offered to get him a solicitor for £17,300 in 2012, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Morris told the jury during a trial of the pair that he was given the impression that Brennan – who had no legal training – was the 'lawyer' when introduced to her by Hale.

The victim gave her the 'fee' in two instalments while her co-defendant found a legitimate solicitor for the case – at a cost of £3,925. Hale pocketed the difference together with a further £3,000 collected in 2014 by pretending it was needed to evict the man who sold the stolen Mercedes.

Meanwhile Brennan, aged 58, systematically took over £35,000 more cash from Mr Morris in a six month period, suggesting it was a 'loan' that would be repaid from damages she expected for a dog bite.Both defendants were found guilty in the £17,300 'solicitor' fraud while Brennan was further convicted in relation to the 'loan' deception while Hale was separately found guilty of the £3,000 'eviction' swindle. All charges had been denied.

Shocking trail of dumped rubbish

The fly-tipped rubbish, strewn for metres, all over land at Turner's Hill, Rowley Regis, near the big aerials

IT is the sort of sight you would expect to find at a tip or landfill site – but this is actually open land in the heart of the Black Country where an incredible amount of rubbish has been dumped.

The trail of rubbish extends for dozens of metres at Turner's Hill in Rowley Regis.

Household waste, carrier bags and even a doll's head are among the pile of rubbish at the site, which is off Portway Hill and a short distance from a huge phone mast which can be seen for miles around.

The scale of the rubbish which has been dumped has caused disbelief and outrage in the area.

A stunned Councillor Maria Crompton encountered the tip while driving past and couldn't believe the fly-tippers had managed to dump so much waste without being seen. She said: "It's absolutely disgusting. If it was brought in a lorry or van it must have had to have reversed in to drop it all off. "It looks like they have got through the gate to access the driveway.

"Somebody must have seen something so if anyone did I hope they will come forward."

The clean-up process looks to have been made complicated as the land is thought to be owned by telecoms giant BT.

Councillor Crompton said it was the worst example of fly-tipping she had ever seen.

It is unclear how long it will take for the rubbish to be cleared.

Clean-ups are all part of Safer 6 campaign

FROM drug raids to neighbourhood clean-ups and a crackdown on underage alcohol sales.

They were just some of the highlights from the newly launch Safer 6 community campaign in Sandwell.

The six-week-long project has been set up by community leaders to promote safety, crime prevention and healthy living as the nights get longer going into winter.

Council bosses have heaped praise on the project after its first week in action – which has involved the police, fire service and Sandwell Council.

Alongside a crackdown in crime, officers from the police and fire services have held public talks on keeping safe.

Councillor Preet Gill, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "The Safer 6 campaign has got off to an excellent start, with a good mix of enforcement and education from a wide range of partner organisations.

"This builds on the work we do together day in, day out to make a safer Sandwell and I look forward to more results across the borough over the coming weeks. Look out for events near you as the campaign continues."

The first week of the campaign has had a special focus on Tipton.

Police executed a drugs warrant at an address in Laburnum Road, whilst acting on intelligence, and found two cannabis plants, 60 bags of cannabis and a hydroponics set up. One person was arrested and has since been released on bail pending further enquiries.

Green light for council homes

NINETY-THREE new council homes will be built in West Bromwich, after planners gave the scheme the green light.

The development in Oxford Road has been hailed as 'great news' by a cabinet members.

The project will be made up of 58 flats and 35 bungalows – with four of the bungalows designed to accommodate wheel chair users.

Cabinet member for social care, Councillor Ann Shackleton, said: "The Oxford Road development is the first scheme to be developed as part of the council's accommodation and support strategy strategy.

"It is designed to give people the opportunity to live as independently as possible while being able to access additional care and support."

Festive lights to be switched on in village

TRADERS and businesses in Kinver are hosting a late night shopping event as part of the countdown to Christmas. The village will hold the festive curtain-raiser on November 25 with shops open until 9pm after the Christmas lights switch-on at 7pm.

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Burglar is traced by jumper at crime scene

A ROMANIAN who burgled an elderly couple's bungalow while they slept claimed he was talked into it by a friend.

Adrian Lacatus and at least one other burglar broke into the pensioners' Stourbridge home in the early hours of February 10. They stole items including an iPhone, a Samsung mobile and a sat-nav before fleeing after being disturbed by the husband.

The 24-year-old admitted the burglary after a jumper he left at the bungalow was recovered by police who were able to match it with his DNA.

Mr Jamie Scott, defending, said: "In interview my client states the offence was his friend's idea. Mr Lacatus was drunk at the time and, while that should be quite properly treated as an aggravating feature, the fact he was drunk supported his suggestion that his friend took the lead and perhaps took advantage of him.

"It is supported further by the fact that the goods taken were retained entirely by my client's friend, who very shortly afterwards returned to Romania. My client drew absolutely no benefit from this offence at all."

The court heard how the couple – aged 70 and 69 – had been asleep when the burglars entered through a kitchen window at around 2am.

Lacatus, of High Street, Lye, was arrested in July. Last week he was jailed for 28 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

A victim statement said the couple had suffered physical and mental distress in addition to financial loss.

Fright-night at Oak House

A FRIDAY fright-night is part of a packed spookfest lined up for families looking for half-term Halloween fun in West Bromwich.

Staff at the historic Oak House, in Oak Road, are holding a week-long series of Halloween events starting with a spookfest family fun day on Tuesday. From 11am until 3pm youngsters can go along in fancy dress and have a go at balloon modelling, listen to ghostly music, spot creepy costumed characters and enjoy spooktacular trails and quizzes.

The hauntingly good fun has a small charge for crafts and face painting from 50p to £3. Youngsters can get crafty and make some spooky creations at a Monster Halloween craft day on Wednesday, from 11am-3pm.

Help is on hand on Thursday for people who want to have a go at pumpkin carving. The sessions cost £2.50 and include pumpkins, tools and stencils.The house turns into a cinema on Friday, from 7-9.30pm which costs £9 and £8 concessions. Enjoy the atmospheric 1922 silent movie Nosferatu accompanied by the Black Country Guitar Quartet.

To book places and find out more go to www.facebook.com/sandwellmuseums or call 0121 553 0759.

£1bn revamp takes UK property title

The Grand Central shopping centre

THE £1 billion regeneration of Birmingham New Street station has scooped the biggest award in the UK property industry, hailed as UK Project of the Year.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors unveiled the winners of its Grand Final at London's Hilton in an event hosted by TV personality Gethin Jones.

The win for New Street is the first time in the awards' history that a project from the West Midlands has taken the top UK title.

The project, revamping the railway station and the surrounding area while also building the landmark Grand Central shopping mall over the top of it was praised as a 'catalyst of change for the West Midlands', increasing investment, attracting more household names and boosting the region's economy.

New Street was up against some of the most inspirational developments from across the UK, including Alder Hey Children's Hospital, the redeveloped Romilly Quarter in Barry and the transformed National Theatre in London. The chairman of the RICS judging panel, David Tuffin, said: "As one of Britain's largest and most important cities, Birmingham deserves a station and shopping and leisure destination of this remarkable calibre. This investment in the city has created around 10,000 jobs and is expected to deliver around £2bn in economic benefits. It is the catalyst for further regeneration in other parts of the city centre, which will create even more jobs."

"The team behind Birmingham Gateway and Grand Central should be extremely proud."

Council chiefs scrap bonfire night at park

A BONFIRE and fireworks display in Tipton has been axed after council bosses admitted the event had failed to live up to expectations.

The display at Jubilee Park will not be returning next month as Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said the authority had decided to focus on the two main displays in West Bromwich and Smethwick.

The fireworks show was moved to Jubilee Park last year as a safety precaution after a stray rocket flew into the crowd at Wednesbury's Brunswick Park.

But chiefs have now had a rethink and decided to cut the number of Bonfire Night events in the borough to two. Thousands of people are expected to descend on Victoria Park, Smethwick, on November 4 and Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, on November 5.

Councillor Eling said: "We have decided to concentrate on the two main events in West Bromwich and Smethwick. Jubilee Park didn't work as well as we would have expected and that was shifted from Brunswick Park because it ended up not being suitable.

The view was that it was better for everybody with two big events that can cater for a lot of people.

Accident

"Everybody will still have access to two really good bonfire and fireworks events in a way that are practical to deliver.

"People are happy we are keeping these events going. In the current circumstances, these are the sort of things that disappear."

Councillor Eling also said having just the two main events would be easier to manage after the accident which marred the Wednesbury show in November 2014.

One man was left with a perforated eardrum after being struck by a firework while a 23-year-old man and a seven-year-old girl were also hurt.

A report into the incident found the fireworks display had gone ahead despite safety warnings from pyro-technicians.

The event was subsequently axed from Brunswick Park and moved to Jubilee Park, the first time since 2007 a fireworks display had been held at the Tipton park.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure said: " We will continue to have an event in the north and the south of the borough."

Fun characters brighten up ward

Members of staff dressed up in children's favourites at Sandwell Hospital's paediatric department

IT'S not often that you'll see the Fairy Godmother, Spiderman, the Minions, Snow White and Bruce Wayne together in the same place.

But that's what happened at Sandwell Hospital's Paediatric Department to lift the spirits of poorly children.

The favourite characters – portrayed by staff at the hospital – were part of one of the activities going on at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust to celebrate the National Play in Hospital Week.

The national campaign is organised by the National Association of Health Play Specialists and the Starlight Children's Foundation.

John Morris-Powley, play specialist at the Trust, said: "National Play in Hospital Week is a great opportunity for us to raise awareness of the benefits of play in the treatment of poorly children. We organised a wide range of activities to keep the children entertained. We had magic shows on the wards and children can get their faces painted as well. We also had movie chill-out time, competitions and lots of painting.

"Our staff also had a fancy dress day to raise funds for play equipment and to entertain the children. The children were really happy to see them, which can be a great distraction when you're feeling poorly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big 4-0 fireworks to go up in smoke

HIMLEY Bonfire and Fireworks is celebrating with The Big Four-O, an extra special pyrotechnical extravaganza to celebrate the 40th Dudley fireworks display.

Gates will open at 4.30pm with the bonfire lit at 7.45 and the fireworks display at 8.30 at the event which will also feature a big funfair and seasonal refreshments. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £4.50 for children (five to 15) and senior citizens with under-5s admitted free.

A family ticket for two adults and two children costs £23 and there is a £3 parking fee.

Card payments are not accepted on the night but advance tickets can be bought on (01384) 812812 or online via the Dudley Council website.

Wheel be going to Toys R Us

HOT Wheels is raring to go and is touring the UK this half term, with a free 'Make it Epic Tour' which is dropping in at the Toys R Us store in Oldbury on Tuesday.

A spokesman said: "Hot Wheels is bringing you awesome racing experiences where you can build the biggest track with the Hot Wheels Ultimate Garage. How far you can jump? Hit the highest number scores to earn your place on the winning podium and share your EPIC tracks with #HotWheels."

Free goody bags of Hot Wheels treats will be available at the end.

For more information, check out: www.HotWheelsEpicTour.co.uk.

Delays warning past Hawthorns

DELAYS are expected on a main road which runs past the Hawthorns for six weeks due to a major roadworks scheme.

Gas mains will be replaced on Halfords Lane from today, Thursday.

Temporary traffic lights will be put up near the junction with Albion Road while the work is ongoing.

The work is due to continue until December 9 and drivers have been warned to expect delays.

The road runs directly outside West Bromwich Albion's ground and eventually joins up with the busy Birmingham Road.

Bollywood star set for Diwali festival

A BOLLYWOOD star will take the stage at a Diwali festival in Blakenhall on Saturday. Punjabi singer Master Saleem will be performing at his first Mela in the UK when he leads the singing and dancing at Phoenix Park on Saturday, October 22, for the festival of the lights between 4pm-9pm.

Guest performers will include Atma Aheer, Inderjit, Shinda Sureela, K B Dhindsa and Ravi Sharma. The entertainment will culminate in a spectacular firework display as the lights are switched on in the evening.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Tax claims on health company sicken me

THE chances are that when you visit your GP, you do not give too much thought to the nationality of the company which runs the practice, still less its tax affairs. As long as the doctor makes you better, the admin side is not your concern.

Even so, it must surely come as a bit of a surprise to the thousands of Black Country patients who this week discovered thanks to some excellent investigative reporting from the BBC's health correspondent Michele Paduano that Malling Health, which runs surgeries in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, is owned by a parent company in the Bahamas.

Even more controversial is the revelation that the NHS contractor has been using taxpayers' money to pay 20 per cent interest on a loan from the said parent company in the sun-kissed tax haven. As a general rule, I think people are too keen to get on their high-horse about tax avoidance. Most of us pay as little tax as possible, given the chance. It is why we take out Isas and ask our financial advisors about 'tax efficient' investments.

However, at a time when we are constantly told how NHS resources are under pressure, can it really be right that doctors' surgeries are sending NHS money abroad? If they really need to borrow money, which I suspect they don't, their high-street bank will loan it at a fifth of that rate. GP services are supposed to be about caring for patients, not playing city whizzkids.

❒❒❒

WITHIN hours of claiming the weak pound was forcing it to increase the price of Marmite, the Unilever conglomerate backed down under pressure from Tesco.

Given that Marmite is made from a yeast by-product of breweries in Staffordshire, it is hard to see how currency fluctuations had much of an impact. The words 'opportunistic' and 'profiteering' spring to mind.

The big supermarkets often get a bad press. But Tesco deserves praise for standing up for the consumer.

❒❒❒

FOR what it's worth – and I concede that is probably not a great deal – here is my prediction of what will happen when Staffordshire Council introduces its pay-as-you-go charging regime for people using the public tips next month.

Within a few weeks, shifty-looking characters will start sticking photocopied leaflets through people's door, offering a doorstep waste-disposal at half the price quoted by Staffordshire Council. People will use this service rather than the official one, and then one night the unofficial waste disposal operators will drive their pick-up to a local beauty spot and empty its contents. The council will then have to clean the site up, at the taxpayers' expense. And everyone's a loser, except the shysters with the pick-up truck.

White Out Staffordshire Moorlands by Margaret Jarvis

The Iron Bridge by Anthony Clemson

Carol Widenbar with her Rhinoceros sculpture

It's a change of art as group hits 100

Exhibition is back by popular demand and for the first time with a theme – metamorphosis, as reporter CARL JACKSON explains

DOZENS of artworks have gone on display in Wolverhampton including an exhibition dedicated to change.

Wolverhampton Society of Artists has held one show once every 12 months throughout its 100 years but it is returning to the art gallery on Lichfield Street for the second time in 2016 by popular demand, such was the success of the first display.

Seventy pieces are on show and will be available to view until November 13.

As well as the usual array of different works from members, the group has taken the opportunity to hold its first themed exhibition which is inspired by metamorphosis – the process of dramatic change or transformation.

The idea was the brainchild of the society's resident professional snapper Chris Manley.

Digital

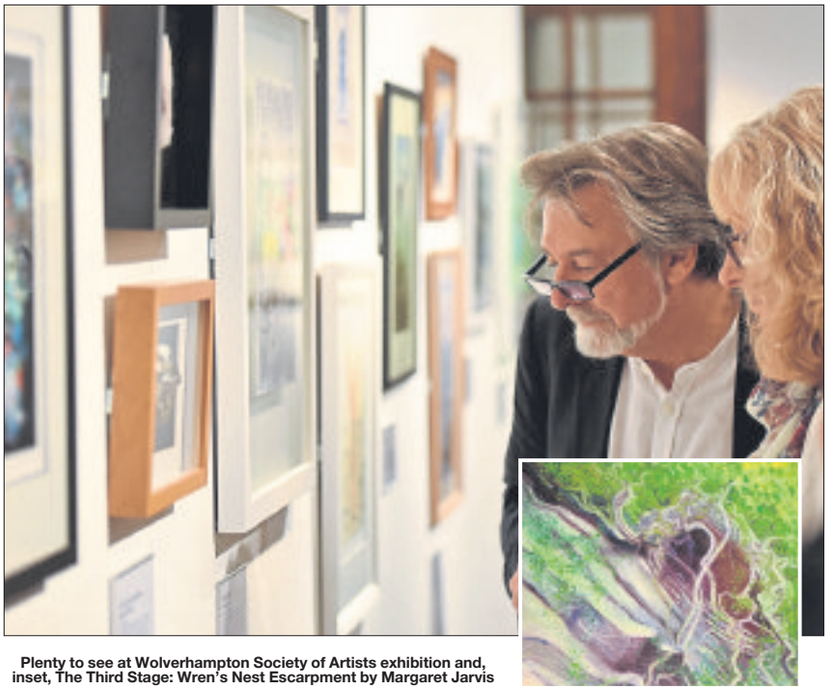
Society member Carol Widenbar said: "We have one section on metamorphosis alongside the usual collection of works from members. It is a new idea this year to have a theme.

"There are one or two digital artworks for the first time. Although we are an old and established society we are trying to get ourselves into the 21st century.

"So our professional photographer Chris had the idea that because this was the first time we were embracing the digital form and the first time we were having a theme, that it should be around the reflection of change which or course is metamorphosis. The digital artworks are all original which have involved a computer in some way. We have not accepted photographs as that exists as another form."

The works were all submitted anonymously. Among those to look out for includes Ms Widenber's ceramic rhinoceros which she said was an 'experiment that turned out to be quite cute'.

Another work sure to catch the eye is Sarah Stokes' Through the Looking Glass which uses oil on glass to depict an eye. Visitors should also look out for Julia Timmins' Guineafowl wood carving.



Plenty to see at Wolverhampton Society of Artists exhibition and, inset, The Third Stage: Wren's Nest Escarpment by Margaret Jarvis

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All for cutting back on number of MPs

REGARDING the boundary changes and how it affects some MPs, especially those complaining about losing their seats.

One MP states it's absolutely appalling he will have to represent more people, also more work will come his way as the result of the Euro Parliament posts going – and he finds it undemocratic.

If he isn't satisfied, why doesn't he try doing manual work for a living and try living on those wages. Most of the public never even meet their MPs, so how can he state it's more work?

Another is disappointed that they are losing seats at a time when the growing work burden means we need more MPs rather than fewer.

To tell you the truth, for the money they receive and what they do for people like us, there should be at least 250 seats going, and the same in the House of Lords.

They don't do enough for the public now, never mind after boundary changes.

Why not ask the public to vote on this subject and see how many agree with them?

I wonder how many of the public will side with the MPs who are complaining because they are finally being sorted out.

If they lose their seats they still receive a golden handshake and a larger pension than most people who have worked most of their lives, so why are they complaining?

They should start with the councillors next, because we have too many of those – also there shouldn't be such a thing as a safe seat.

J E RUSHTON
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Not what I call sound of music!

I AGREE with Alison Norton's review of the Sound of Music, at the Grand, Wolverhampton.

I saw the show at the Birmingham Hippodrome and I would now, but for seeing the Birmingham Royal Ballet performing the Tempest this week.

Ms Norton writes: "Don't yell at me, but I think I must be the only person who is not a Julie Andrews fan. I found her portrayal of Maria in the movie more than a little irritating."

I told my relatives, neighbours, friends, even the taxi driver: "I must be the only person who can't stand the film and Julie Andrews. But I'm going to see the show to see Lucy O'Byrne."

Lucy has the most beautiful of voices and she is lovely. The perfect Maria and a star. She has the perfect voice. The Tempest was truly mind-blowing! A great tribute to Shakespeare's 400-year anniversary.

JACKIE ADAMS
Rowley Regis

Grammar schools back in spotlight

SO, the idea of grammar schools has reared its head again. The left wing anti-competitionists are shouting about an education system designed for the wealthy. I went to a grammar school and had to choose between a blazer and cricket whites. When this country was great it had a world-class education system that was simple and effective. Yes, the grammar school is a great, formal education, usually leading to university. But, that way is not for everybody.

We all have different skill sets. The grammar education was to produce business leaders, MPs and academics. But, the secondary modern schools were designed for a more practical education producing the workers of this country. It is rude of any supporter of the formal educational institutions to look down their imperial noses at the people who followed this route.

If we look today what do we need? Computer analysts, office managers or the like? No, we need plumbers, builders, toolsetters and engineers. Also there is no rule that says a grammar school kid can't earn an honest living in a boiler suit or a kid from the secondary modern going on to be a captain of industry. Ask Alan Sugar.

Dave Pottinger
West Bromwich

Not racism for wanting to leave EU

REFERENCE your article on the activist John Page, I find his comments about the residents of Dudley disgraceful.

How can you possibly call people racist just because they voted to leave a community which many believe was draining the lifeblood from this country.

We all agree that immigration was high on the electorates' agenda, along with sovereignty, but what Mr Page has failed to highlight is the fact that so-called migrants along with immigrants, are given priority on the housing ladder, both in Dudley and other neighbouring boroughs, so it's little wonder the vote went against the establishment.

I voted to leave the European Union, so I suppose I am now a racist. Before I retired I was a strong trade unionist and a Labour voter, but people like Mr Page make me wonder why I ever bothered to vote Labour.

KEITH V JOYCE
Wednesbury

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Academy 'improving' after move into special measures

A WEST Bromwich school ranked inadequate by Ofsted is making steps to exit special measures, inspectors have announced.

Staff at George Salter Academy were labelled as being 'unaware' of safeguarding pupils from 'extremism or radicalisation' in the damning report published in May. However, a monitoring visit from the schools watchdog has said the academy, in Davey Road, is improving.

The situation has been helped by the appointment of a new principal Pank Patel, the former regional schools commissioner. The report says 'senior leadership has been strengthened by the appointment of the principal' while work has been carried out to fix safeguarding issues.

It states: "The school's leadership has acted quickly to address the areas for improvement identified by the previous inspection. Safeguarding procedures now have high importance."

Inspectors said 'staff demonstrate a high level of awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities' and 'pupils who spoke with inspectors said that they feel safe and know how to keep themselves safe in a wide range of situations'.

They also praised pupils' 'engagement in their learning' and said 'behaviour in lessons is of a good standard' – as a result 'high-quality learning takes place and pupils are able to demonstrate the progress they make during a lesson'.

Mr Patel is previously head of Wood Green Academy in Wednesbury.

Mr Patel, who joined last month, said: "It is a pleasure to have returned to headship, particularly at an academy that serves a community I am passionate about supporting. There is so much potential here, as demonstrated by Ofsted's monitoring report."

Hundreds of homes set for city

COUNCIL chiefs in Birmingham are set to build more than 500 new homes – at a cost of £64 million. The city council was due to back a major new house building programme.

This new homes plan will come through the council's Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust for the redevelopment of the Bromford estate, near the Fort shopping centre.

A total of 225 new homes – 168 for affordable rent and 57 for sale – will be built at a cost of £28m.

Alongside the house building programme, cabinet will also be asked to approve the development of a 300 flats and houses for rent through council company INReach at a cost of £36m.

Council leader John Clancy said: "It's clear there will be no 'one-size-fits-all' solution as we address the growing housing needs in Birmingham. The city must build a range of homes, including social housing."

Festival of fun for care home folk

RESIDENTS and members of a Wednesbury care home enjoyed a special afternoon of activities to mark harvest festival.

Dovedale Court Care Home welcomed members of the local community on October 6 as part of the celebrations.

The home hosted a range of exciting activities including a visit from Hope Church, which the residents and guests thoroughly enjoyed along with a craft and refreshment sale.

A key part of the day was the distribution of the home's harvest collection. Dovedale Court provided their local food bank with items they had gathered for their harvest collection.

The home also held fundraising activities for the home's management company HC-One's charity partner The Silver Line.

The Silver Line is the only free, national, confidential helpline open every day and night, offering information, friendship and advice to older people. HC-One recently announced a £100,000 donation to the charity, which will cover the costs of 20,000 calls to the helpline.

Harvest Festival is an annual celebration to mark the end of the main Harvest season, and a time to give thanks for the crop that has been grown.

Traditionally it is a time when people share collected food items with those in need in their local community. HC-One currently has the highest compliance rating of all independent residential care home providers. It is also celebrating achieving a 9.4/10 average rating on the sector's leading care home comparison website carehome.co.uk.

The high rating demonstrates HC-One is one of the best companies in the care home sector as rated by service users. Dovedale Court Care Home manager, Sue Guest, said: "Our harvest festival celebrations were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by residents and staff.

"At Dovedale it is important for us to be part of the community."

Residents enjoy traditional treats as part of the harvest festival event

Halloween fun for all at museum

ALL things spooky – from a movie fright night to a Halloween disco and a ghost tour are lined up at Sandwell's historic Manor House Museum.

Two horror films in one evening are being shown at the 13th century house, which is reputed to be haunted.

The Horror Film Fest is on Friday October 21, doors open at 6.45pm. The first film starts at 7pm and costs £3 per person. No booking is required.

Boogie away dressed up as your favourite spooky character at a family Halloween disco on Saturday October 22 from 7.30-10.30pm. The evening costs £5 per person and includes a Halloween lucky bag.

On October 24 the house is hosting a mystery day giving young super sleuths the chance to unearth mysterious goings on. The fun is from 11am-3pm and costs £1 children and adults 50p which includes craft sessions, a treasure hunt and much more.

Haunted

Halloween Movie Club is on 25 October at 1pm and admission is free unless a film is showing in 3D when there is a £1.50 hire charge for the special glasses. Then on October 26 the house is holding Spooky Craft workshops from 11am-3pm.

Junior ghostbusters are needed on October 26 for anyone aged over eight who wants to find out if the house is really haunted. The mystery starts at 5pm and costs £5 per child, £1.50 per adult. Booking is essential.

Youngsters can trick or treat and meet lots of unusual Manor House residents on October 28. Admission is £6 per child and includes a trick or treat bag and lots of goodies. The fun starts from 3pm. The week-long spookfest finishes with a Fright Night on October 29 from 5-9pm including a ghost walk. Suitable for over 12s only.

For more details about events at the museum, call 0121 588 2985.

Children book up for library scheme

Councillor Simon Hackett, Nicola Morris, member of the Story Players and Janette Beckett with pupils from Highfields Primary school, from left, Navneet Ghuman, Ellie-Mae Taylor, Vincent Turner, Archie Byatt and Dhiaan Nega

A SPECIAL scheme has launched at Blackheath Library and promises to give library membership to all reception-age children in Sandwell.

Children from Highfields Primary School, Rowley Regis who came to the launch were treated to a performance by The Story Players.

Booktastic, which began three years ago, has seen record numbers of young children visiting libraries to borrow books. The increase has been put down to the success of the Booktastic scheme which hands library cards to reception age children in schools.

Each reception child is given a special Booktastic membership pack, including a membership card, folder and information about the library service. There are also special Booktastic Missions for children to complete.

Booktastic has meant libraries in Sandwell have seen unprecedented numbers of books being borrowed by young children. In the last school year nearly 9,000 books were issued as part of Booktastic to four, five and six year olds.

The scheme was first thought up by Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services in a bid to increase the number of children visiting libraries and borrowing and reading more books.

He said: "I'm thrilled this campaign is having the impact we want it to and I'm committed to continuing with Booktastic this year.

"Not only are the children becoming members of the library but they are also returning to borrow books.

"It's important to get young children to read for pleasure as this is proven to increase literacy levels and improve achievements at school."

This year's scheme will be sponsored by Black Country Housing which has pledged £3,000 to support Booktastic.

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Ghostly figure caught on camera at Back to Backs

A BLACK Country mother claims she captured a ghost on camera at a West Midlands tourist attraction.

Ella Reeve, aged 30, snapped the ethereal figure during a visit to the Birmingham Back to Backs museum – a 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses run by the National Trust.

The mother-of-two, from Wolverhampton, had been to visit with her 81-year-old nan, as her late grandad was brought up in similar houses and she wanted to see how he might have lived.

Miss Reeve said the historic museum gave her a 'weird feeling' – but she had no idea she'd captured a spooky spectre on camera until she got home and looked through her pictures.

Devastated

She said she is adamant there was no-one else in the room and is convinced she managed to capture a ghost on camera.

"My grandad died two years ago, when he was 93, and I was absolutely devastated – we were so close," she said.

"I'd heard about the museum and knew he grew up in houses like that, so I wanted to visit to get that nostalgic feeling and feel a bit closer to him.

"When we went in I got a bit of a weird feeling and it was all a bit eerie – but it seemed fine when we were walking around.

"When we went into one room, I was left in there on my own as everyone else carried on upstairs and I decided to get a quick picture before joining them.

"When I was in there I got a really funny feeling – it went ice cold, and I was all tingly and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up.

"But I didn't think too much of it, and carried on around the museum.

"When I got home and was scrolling through my pictures, I saw on one of them there was a white mist – but I thought maybe it was just the flash of my camera.

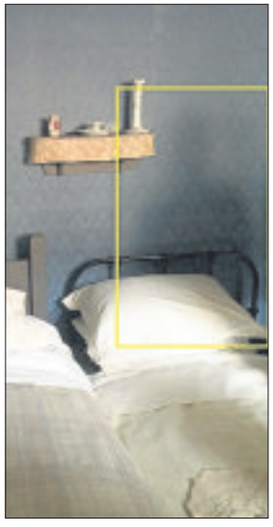
"But when I looked at the one from the bedroom, I could see a shadow – even though nobody had been in the room with me.

"I knew it wasn't mine – the outline didn't fit with my shape, and it looked like a man's shadow.

"As I looked closer, I saw there was no shadow on the bed, just the wall – if someone had been in there with me the shadow would've fallen on the bed as well.

"It was very weird, and it sent shivers down my spine.

"It is quite comforting to think it might be someone I know though – I don't think it was a bad presence."



The picture taken by Ella Reeve, with the mysterious shadow on the wall

Part of the Victorian houses at the Back-to-Backs museum in Birmingham

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Home bargains on offer with properties auction

HOUSE hunters could grab a Black Country bargain today, Thursday, as several budget-priced homes go under the hammer.

Dozens of cheap properties in the region are going up for auction at Villa Park in various states of repair.

Some are fire-damaged, boarded up or incomplete, whereas some are more complete. The properties are being sold by Birmingham-based auctioneers SDL Bigwood, with homes from Middlesbrough and Liverpool also up for auction.

Among them is a property in Lewis Street, Great Bridge, a spacious three-bedroom end terrace property which is up for grabs for just £45,000.

Downstairs, the property has a porch, hall, reception room, kitchen, under-stairs cupboard, WC and rear conservatory. The first floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom/WC and there is also an attic above. There is a garden to the rear and driveway parking at the front.

The property benefits from having a gas fired central heating system and the majority of the windows are UPVC double glazed units.

In Parkfields Road, Wolverhampton, £43,000 to £48,000 could bag you a cut-price two-bedroom terraced home. The property, handily located near the Birmingham New Road for commuting, features a lounge and dining room/kitchen on the ground floor, and a landing, two bedrooms and a bathroom/WC on the first floor. There is a small paved frontage and also a rear garden.

A three-bedroom end of terrace property in Providence Lane, Walsall could provide a tasty bargain for between £44,000 and £49,000.

The home in the Leamore area of the town has plenty of amenities located close by. It boasts a hall, reception room, kitchen and downstairs bathroom on the ground floor, and a landing and three bedrooms upstairs. There is a garden to the rear and a small yard at the front.

And in Dudley, a two-bedroom terraced home is available for just £60,000 to £65,000 in Prince Street.

The property in the Baptist End area of the town is close to Hillcrest School and Community College and is also handy for Netherton Park. The auction will commence from 11am at Villa Park's Holte Suite.

The Great Bridge house, at £45,000

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£44-£48,000 – Providence Lane, Walsall

£60-£65,000 – Prince Street, Dudley

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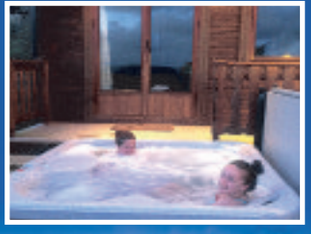

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Awards in Adrian's memory handed out

From left, Suzy Evans with nominee Ryan Brazier, award winners Ryan Roberts, Matthew O'Toole and Zoe Scriven, and former Sandwell Council worker Adrian Evan's mother Maureen

WINNERS of a special apprenticeship awards scheme, set up to honour the memory of a Sandwell Council worker who was killed in the Tunisian terrorist attack last year, have been announced.

The three Sandwell Council apprentices had their achievements recognised at a special ceremony marking the first Adrian Evans' Apprenticeship Awards.

Adrian, aged 49, who was the authority's gas services manager, was killed last June, while on holiday with his father, Pat Evans, aged 78, and nephew Joel, aged 19. Younger nephew Owen, then aged 16 survived the atrocity.

The Adrian Evans' Apprenticeship of the Year was won by Matthew O'Toole, aged 21, a trainee neighbourhoods repairs clerk in the voids team who was presented with his award by Adrian's sister Suzy.

Adrian's mother, Maureen Evans also attended the event.

Matthew, aged 21, who was nominated by his manager, Dawn Jones, joined the voids section – which gets council homes ready for new tenants – two years ago, on a voluntary basis and then secured his apprenticeship.

He is now working towards a Diploma in Business Administration.

Matthew was praised by his bosses for his determined, yet friendly approach, his keen eye for detail and his eagerness to learn new skills.

And Matthew also contributes to a council-run project for young people called MOTIV8 which focuses on building young people's confidence and employment skills. Matthew said: "I'm very happy to have won the award as there was some strong competition from colleagues.

"It's also a great honour to be the first person to win this extra-special award set up in Adrian's memory."

Two other awards were made at the presentation. Zoe Scriven, aged 18, was awarded Office Apprenticeship of the Year for her work as an apprentice visitor services assistant at the Oak House Museum in West Bromwich.

Zoe, nominated by her manager Cherie Wilkinson received praise for the great initiative she shows on a daily basis, organising her own workload and often working at different locations and changing her hours to suit the needs of the business. She is also a mentor for seasonal staff and work experience students.

She has completed a NVQ Level 2 in customer services and is now working towards her Level 3 award.

The other award winner Ryan Roberts, aged 21, collected the Craft Apprenticeship of the Year for his work as an apprentice electrician also in the voids section.

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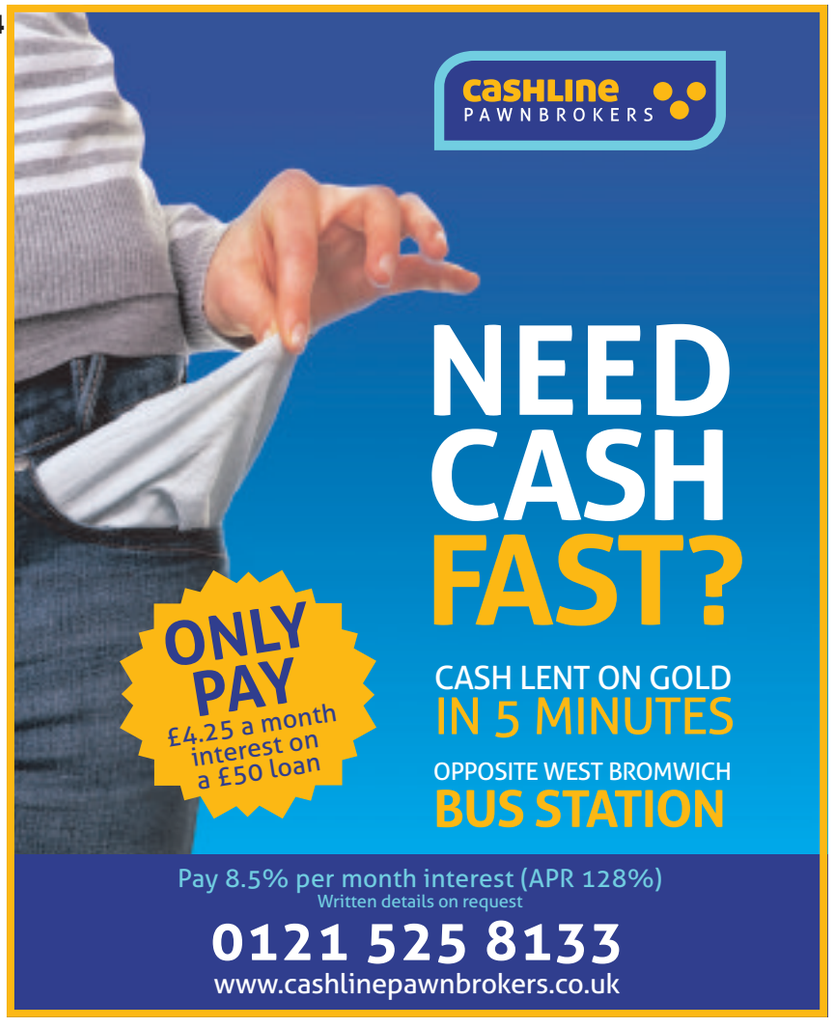

Anil stands up for fair treatment across board

WITH A LOVE of fine dining and highly-developed moral principles, Security Officer Anil Bhogal is a well-respected member of the security team at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Standing up for safety, justice, and fairness, Anil can be found working the night shift at City Hospital every other week and is one of the trust's Freedom to Speak Up Guardians.

A key position, Anil was appointed to this new role in the summer, to support staff to raise their concerns and help the trust to make positive change happen.

To do this he reports directly to the chief executive.

The 28-year-old, from Pipe Hayes in Birmingham, has been with the Trust for three years now, and in that time he has seen more than most.

Incidents

"My role in the security team is to control and resolve conflict while maintaining a safe and secure environment for all," Anil explained.

"Sometimes people get aggressive, sometimes people get violent, and sometimes there are high-risk incidents that have to be dealt with calmly and carefully.

"But there is definitely no such thing as a typical shift – some nights we can be dealing with what feels like a hundred callouts, and sometimes we only have one or two."

Anil works on a one-week-on/one-week-off schedule, and when he works on his hours are 7pm-7am the following morning.

"It can get tiring, but I do really enjoy this working schedule," Anil said. "But I go into every shift excited because I don't know what it will hold.

"With my security team I help keep thousands of staff, patients, and members of the public safe, and that alone is motivating.

"It means that staff can treat, patients can be treated, and visitors can come and go safely."

"I have always wanted to work in security. In my working life I have worked within several different security sectors, but I wanted to work in the NHS because it's an important national institution where I have been really able to feel I am making a difference.

When asked about his personal NHS Hero, Anil talked very fondly of Peter Finch, the Trust's former head of security.

"Peter gave me the opportunity to work within the NHS, which has changed my life for the better.

"And I see him as a role model because he has big dreams and has worked hard to achieve them.

"He believes so passionately in healthcare security and he was keen to see us go far in our professional development, whether that be as security officers or managers in the wider field.

"He has had a lot of input in helping us learn, and I really appreciate the time and effort he put into our team."

Anil, an avid traveller, loves going on trips abroad in his weeks off. He is at home in the gym and trains six times a week.

"I love living a healthy lifestyle. When I'm not at work I love to do bodybuilding and mixed martial arts. And I also love shopping, socialising, and fine food!"

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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ANIL BHOGAL
Security Officer

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Justin Bieber performs at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Monday night in front of more than 15,000 fans

OK I admit I am now a Belieber too

Justin Bieber
Barclaycard Arena

BIEBER fever has taken hold in Birmingham where over two nights some 30,000 fans of the 22-year-old pop megastar were filling the city centre arena.

But don't scream whilst Justin is talking. He doesn't like it.

"Screaming is abhorrent," the multi-million-album selling Canadian icon of cool told the fans on Monday night when his call for hush was not fully respected. "Do me a favour, relax for a second. Take a chill pill," said the baggy-panted pop phenomenon, brow briefly furrowed under backward baseball cap. "It doesn't feel like I am being heard."

It was one of a couple of odd moments, the other being his elongated drum solo which seemed strangely out of place in such a hi-tech state-of-the-art spectacle of a show. And what a show. High definition graphics meant it was sometimes hard to work out what was real and what was digital trickery. This was a concert for the Xbox One generation.

Bieber himself popped up and down like a jack in the box via various trap doors and elevators after appearing first in a perspex box scrawling the title of the opening song, Mark My Words, on the walls. Then came Where Are U Now with Bieber joining his team of gymnastic dancers in the jerky, semi-robotic dance routine that has become his trademark.

There were 21 songs in his one hour and 45 minute set, built around an intermission that seemed designed to sell more merchandise with a Birmingham only T-shirt available in the break for £30. Most came from latest album Purpose, which gives this 123 concert tour its name.

But a couple of old favourites got some of the biggest cheers, including Boyfriend and a revamped version of his breakthrough hit Baby. Since he last performed the latter in Brum, Bieber has grown up fast, gone bad boy and then reformed, gaining millions more fans and about 50 tattoos.

He proved he can sing with an acoustic interlude, sat upon a red velvet couch and strummed his guitar for a version of Major Lazer's Cold Water and his recent hit Love Yourself.

Other highlights included Company, where Bieber and co took off over the arena somersaulting on a trampoline, and the tick-tock terrific What Do You Mean?

He did get briefly philosophical on the subject of Purpose, before plugging the merch one last time before the encore. Sorry, sent fans home happy just after 11pm. I know his Purpose, to make shed loads of money and brilliantly catchy R&B flavoured pop songs. He does it very well. I've seen his fate and I am a Belieber.

He's back in the West Midlands to play the Genting Arena at the NEC on October 24 but that's sold out too.

Leon Burakowski

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Two wheel wedding for motorbike enthusiasts

Poddy and Karen roar into married life at Dudley Register Office where the wedding transport was strictly motorbikes

FORGET the Rolls Royce or Bentley, a Black Country couple celebrated tying the knot with a motorbike procession.

Biker David 'Poddy' Podmore, aged 50, and Karen Steer, 51, from Compton, Wolverhampton, married at Dudley Register Office and then rode to their reception on a Triumph Rocket followed by friends on their motorbikes.

Speaking on her son's wedding day on Friday, Poddy's mother Sue Keane, 70, said: "The day has been absolutely brilliant.

"Poddy and all his friends have always had motorcycles since they were old enough.

"Me and Poddy's dad always had a motorbike, bikes have always been in our family. Poddy has never been without a motorbike."

Around 12 bikes were in the convoy starting out from the register office before more joined them on the road.

Poddy rode his Triumph Rocket 2,300CC with Karen on the pillion.

The procession joined the happy couple as they made their way to Himley Cricket Club for the reception.

The two-wheel wedding procession

Ant-fraud probe saves taxpayers £1.2m in year

ANTI-FRAUD investigations by Wolverhampton council and Wolverhampton Homes saved taxpayers an estimated £1.2 million last year, figures have revealed.

The investigations team uncovered 38 cases of Wolverhampton Homes tenancy fraud such as false applications and non-occupation of properties.

The estimated value of this fraud was £684,000. The update also showed there had been 931 cases of people falsely claiming the single person council tax discount with an estimated value of £230,000.

It also revealed a total of 16 cases of Wolverhampton Homes properties being illegally sublet – estimated at £288,000.

Priority

Some of the more audacious frauds uncovered included a woman claiming to be homeless and sleeping on a sofa with her children forced to stay with relatives. She had applied for a council house, but after investigation it was revealed she was not homeless at all and was actually living in a privately rented home. Her application was cancelled.

In another case, a man claimed to have five children living with him in an overcrowded house which gave him a higher priority on the housing waiting list and the offer of a three bedroom council property.

Investigations revealed that in fact only two children lived with the man and the property was not overcrowded. The housing offer was withdrawn.

The man refused to admit that he had lied on his application and took the council to court to try to get the decision overturned. The judge ruled in the council's favour, dismissed the case and awarded the council costs of almost £6,000.

Councillor Craig Collingswood, chairman of the council's audit and risk committee, said that investigating fraud and protecting the public purse was an important priority.

Famous fighters to wing in

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-2. Rebuilt by the EADS/Messerschmitt Foundation, Germany with a Daimler-Benz DB 605 engine as a G-6

FAMOUS fighter planes are coming to the RAF Cosford Museum as part of preparations for the centenary of the Royal Air Force in 2018.

New arrivals will be brought in before the end of the year. They include the last surviving example of a Wolverhampton-built Boulton Paul Defiant Mk 1 and a rare Messerschmitt BF109G-2, part of the Luftwaffe's fearsome armoury.

Others are a Junkers Ju 88R-1, a sub-type of the most versatile German combat aircraft of the Second World War, and the Gloster Gladiator 1, the first bi-plane to feature an enclosed cockpit.

All four aircraft will go on public display in the museum's War in the Air hangar. The de Havilland Tiger Moth II, one of the world's most famous training aircraft which provided the majority of RAF pilots with their elementary flying training during the Second World War, will also be coming to Cosford.

The Tiger Moth will be displayed next to the de Havilland Chipmunk and Scottish Aviation Bulldog T Mk 1 in Hangar 1.

The Westland Lysander III, the only surviving Special Duties variant of this aircraft will be heading to the museum's Conservation Centre for an in-depth inspection and condition assessment.

The planes will be moving to Cosford from the RAF Museum in London. Curators are keen to spread the story of the RAF in the build up to its 100th anniversary in two years' time.

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Hate crime fight gets under way in borough

A DRIVE to make sure people recognise hate crime and know how to report it has got under way in Sandwell.

By David Banner

A best practice forum last week – National Hate Crime Awareness Week – highlighted concerns about under-reporting of incidents. Students at Wodensborough Ormiston Academy, Wednesbury, also gave a powerful presentation.

Organisations including Sandwell Council, West Midlands Police, Rights and Equality Sandwell and Victim Support agreed to raise greater awareness, especially around how to report incidents.

As well as promoting ways to report online or by phone, they are reviewing – and looking to increase – places in the local community where people can raise issues.

During Monday's forum event, held in the Council Chamber at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, delegates heard from several speakers who put across the victim's voice, including a victim of hate crime.

Sandwell public health and protection chief, Councillor Preet Gill, said: "It was a really positive event, with everyone determined to put victims firstOrganisations also agreed to build on the existing good work of the Safer Sandwell Hate Crime Partnership Group by: Involving young people more – to help prevent hate crime and nip problems in the bud early, and to promote greater tolerance;

Improving training for people who work or volunteer on the frontline – to offer a consistent service to victims; strengthening partnership working – especially with community organisations and; improving intelligence and better identifying hate crime offences at the start of investigations.

Future plans may also include a joint conference with local community and voluntary groups.

Life in the fast lane for jungle James

Director of motorway operations at the M6 Toll, James Hodson, who is heading off to Africa

THE director of motorway operations at the M6 Toll is swapping urban highways for wild wilderness for a five-day survival challenge.

James Hodson is taking part in Bear Grylls 'Survival in Africa' challenge next month, in aid of Midlands Air Ambulance Charity along with an 11-strong team of fellow MACC supporters with the aim of raising £100,000 for the emergency services.

They will travel to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe where they will pit their survival instincts against nature.

Mr Hodson said: "This is a true test of instinct, spirit, resourcefulness and courage. At times I'm sure it will severely test our self-reliance. Stripped of modern-day comforts I'm hoping to learn a lot about myself.

"Ultimately though, it's about raising funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and recognising the difficult and vital role they play on a daily basis to the survival of others."

Mr Hodson has also set up a justgiving page for donations https://www.justgiving.com/jim-hodson

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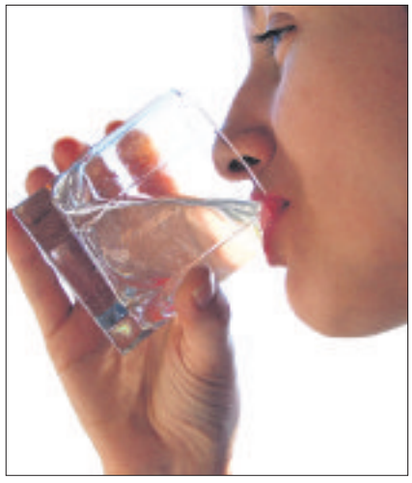
Working with customers for more affordable water bills



Help is on offer to make water bills more affordable

Help can be provided with filling in paperwork

Support with budgeting is available

Commercial feature

South Staffs Water already has one of the lowest water bills in the country but we are keen to do all we can to help anyone who is having genuine difficulty paying.

Last year we provided support to nearly 20,000 customers in debt to help get their finances back on track but we know we can still do more. Our advice to anyone who is struggling to meet their payments is don't suffer in silence. Please contact us and we'll do all that we can to help.

Introduced earlier this year, the Assure tariff is a new and easy way for eligible customers to reduce their water charges by up to 80 per cent.

Customers with an annual household income of less than £16,105 (excluding income from Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments and Attendance Allowance) may qualify for a discount of 20 per cent, 40 per cent, 60 per cent or 80 per cent on their water bill. South Staffs Water will also arrange for the discount to be applied to sewerage charges as well.

If we think you could qualify for Assure, we'll ask you to fill in an application form with details of your income and expenditure. At the same time, we'll ask for some paperwork, such as copies of your recent pay slips or confirmation of your benefits, as well as details of how and when you would like to pay your bill.

Application forms are available on our website www.south-staffs-water.co.uk or if you give us a call on 0800 0930610, we can post a copy. We can also help with applications over the phone or if it's easier, arrange for someone to come to your home and help you in person. The information will be used to assess eligibility and the level of discount a customer will get if they qualify.

Even if you don't qualify for Assure there a number of other ways we are working with customers to help make their water bill more affordable.

• Water meters may be installed for free in most homes. Because customers only pay for the water they use many people find their bill is cheaper.

• Customers can request free water efficient devices designed to save money on their water, wastewater and heating bills, via our website www.south-staffs-water.co.uk.

• The WaterSure tariff can support customers already on a water meter but with high usage due to a large family or medical condition, who also receive income related benefits, by limiting their charges for the year.

• We can signpost customers to other organisations that can provide support and advice including CAB, StepChange and the South Staffordshire Water Charitable Trust.

• We offer flexible payment arrangements so customers can choose to pay in weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments and spread the cost over the year. And payment cards and payment books for budgeting. Visit www.south-staffs-water.co.uk or call 0800 0930610.

Reduce your water bill by up to 80%

Is your household income less than £16,105?*

Visit **www.south-staffs-water.co.uk** or call **0800 0930610** and ask about Assure – a new and easy way to make water bills more affordable.

South Staffs Water

*South Staffs Water customers with an annual household income of less than £16,105 (excluding DLA, PIP and AA) may qualify.

Why Paradise is so much nearer than you may think

Commercial feature

MENTION the word PARADISE to a friend or colleague and they may say that it was hit song for Coldplay in 2011, or others may say it's a far away distant island, part of the French Polynisia islands called Tahiti.

But ask locals in the Sandwell area and they will tell you that it is a new furniture showroom now open in Oldbury. The store, owned and run by father and son, opened last week in the recently-refurbished units in Fountain lane, Oldbury.

A visit is a must, to see the wide range of furniture available, including divan beds, wooden beds, metal beds, sofas, dining tables and all kinds of occasional and pine furniture, along with some beautifully designed bed settees which need to be seen to be believed at how cheap they are!

Paradise is also offering great deals on bedroom furniture sets including two-door wardrobe, chest of four drawers and a bedside table from £149. The sets are also available in a wide range of colours, so again a visit will be well worth your time.

The units in Fountain Lane have all recently been refurbished by the landlord, so the area is seen to be up and coming with new business taking ownership as the units become available.

Open Monday to Saturday, the showroom offers ample parking. It is on the opposite side of the road to the Sandwell and Dudley Railway Station.

CONTACT US

Business: Paradise Furniture & Bed Centre.

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So much to see at the well-stocked Paradise store

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Insuring royal 90th celebrated properly

A BOSS of an Oldbury-based insurance firm visited Buckingham Palace to take part in the Queen's ongoing 90th birthday celebrations.

Report by Clare Butler

Peter James, managing director of Stewart Miller & Peter James Insurance, joined in an event organised by the All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group and the All-Party Parliamentary Historic Vehicles Group.

The groups have put together their own tribute to Her Majesty, bringing together the cream of the British motor industry.

The visit took place on Saturday.

Parade

A total of 90 vehicles – one for each year of Her Majesty's life – lined up on the palace forecourt, led by a 1926 Bullnose Morris Oxford Tourer.

Each vehicle featured in the parade was inspected on behalf of HM The Queen by HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Peter, alongside Richard Burden MP, chairman of the group, and Sir Gregory Knight MP, were also given the opportunity to inspect the vehicles on display and select their favourite.

Mr James said: "As the UK's leading specialist classic vehicle insurance broker, with so many examples of the best of British motoring on our books, we're delighted to be supporters of this very special event."

The event is co-supported by H&H Classics – who are the auctioneers for the classic collector, alongside the insurance firm.

HQ starts up for car restoring TV show

Fuzz Towshend (left) with presenter Tim Shaw have found a Black Country base for their hit TV show

A HIT TV show in which classic cars are restored to their former glory has launched a new base in Oldbury. Fuzz Townshend, one of the presenters of Channel 4's Car SOS – and also the former drummer in Stourbridge based Pop Will Eat Itself – will be filming the latest series of the show at a garage unit at the Springfield industrial estate.

In the show, presenter Tim Shaw and former Dudley bus mechanic Fuzz take on restoration projects. Townshend and business partner Dave Tassell run To-Ta Classics and have agreed a five-year lease on the 5,548 sq ft unit on the industrial estate, which is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties.

"These are exciting times. To-Ta Classics sees myself and Dave Tassell join forces in a purpose-equipped workshop. It will also be the base for the next series of Car SOS," said Fuzz.

fast theticket

Rock on

Million Dollar Quartet – Page 23

Omid Djalili

Page 23

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Bonehead remembers being there, even now

They were the biggest band on the planet – in 1996, Oasis had the world at their feet.

They were the acme of rock 'n' roll. They drank champagne, snorted cocaine, hung out with supermodels and flicked the finger to waiting paparazzi.

Prime ministers and Hollywood A-listers wanted to be their mates. Their two Knebworth gigs held 250,000 fans but received ticket applications from 2.6 million. No band, other than The Beatles during the 1960s, had had such a profound effect on the nation's culture and psyche. So when Oasis booked Abbey Road Studios to record their third album, Be Here Now, the stakes could not have been higher. After the success of (What's The Story) Morning Glory, they had everything to lose and nothing to gain.

At the time of its release, Be Here Now was the most popular record of all time. It received unanimous and truly amazing praise from critics. It shipped 424,000 copies in the UK on the first day of its release and 696,000 by the end of the week, making it the fastest-selling album in British history. And though history has been unkind to the record, re-evaluating its artistic merit, it remains a sensationally popular record. Lauded as being the most effusively praised record since Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Be Here Now was a unique recording.

Difficult

Rhythm guitarist Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs recalls: "The sessions were difficult. We'd reached the height at that point and we couldn't make a move. Wherever we went, there was paparazzi and the whole media circus. All eyes were on us."

It could have been so different. There was a moment, at the start of Be Here Now, when Oasis could have exceeded expectation – when they could have justified the hype.

The album is now being remastered and reissued in October to commemorate 20 years since they started to record it. It will include the original demos laid down for the album, and these are what Bonehead remembers fondly. "Noel brought back the demos from Mustique," he reminisces. "They were incredible, they weren't usual Noel demos. Normally he'd send them with one or two acoustic guitars and a vocal and it was great. But he came back from Mustique and there were keyboards, bass, harmonies – they were fully fledged songs. It was really f***ing exciting.

"And then we were booked into Abbey Road, which is iconic. But from there, it just went downhill. The papparazi were breaking into the studio, looking for drugs, looking for a story. I was staying in an apartment with Owen, the producer, which was next door. We were living and sleeping there. But we had to put a disguise on before going to the shops in the morning."

On Definitely Maybe and (What's The Story) Morning Glory, Oasis had been able to switch off and focus when it came to recording. They were afforded no such luxury for Be Here Now. "Our sacred space was the studio.

"No matter how big or small you are, you shut the doors and get on with it. But the media circus was always in the back of our mind. Owen and I were in the apartment next door and it should have been incredible.

"But when I wanted to nip to the pub with Owen for a pint I was told I wasn't allowed. We couldn't do it. We had orders from the office. There were paps outside."

Scrutiny

The record was made when the band were on the crest of a wave. They had no complaints about the fuss and scrutiny that surrounded them. They were living out their dreams. "It was mind-blowing at the time. It all happened so fast," adds Bonehead. "It's what we lived and breathed and what we wanted to do from the start. We wanted it more than anyone, we believed more than anyone. But poor old Liam would open his bedroom curtains and 40 f***ing cameras would be snapping away. I think he dealt with it admirably. I think he still does."

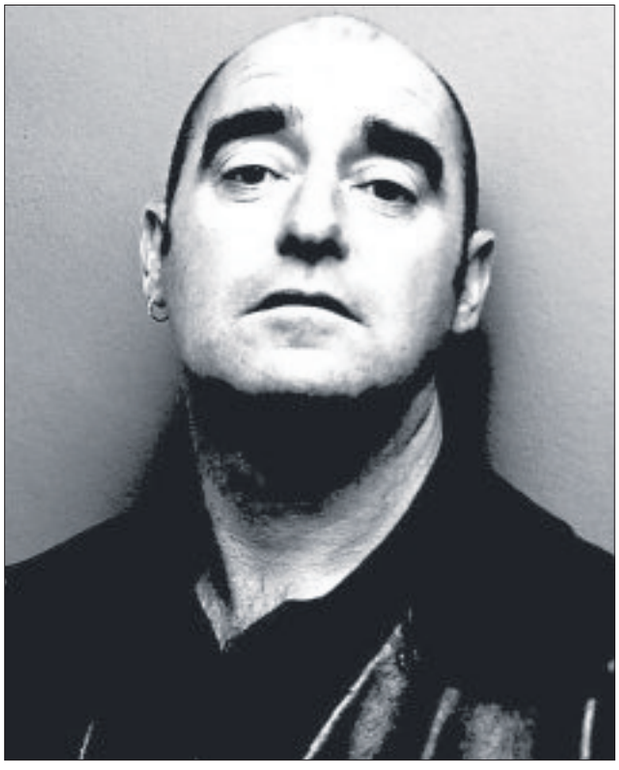
Be Here Now was the definition of ambition. While other bands were making three-and-a-half-minute Britpop songs, Oasis were recording nine-minute epics like All Around The World with 40-piece orchestras.

"Noel had that song from back at The Boardwalk, in Manchester. It could have gone on the first album but he said he wouldn't release it until he had a 40-piece orchestra. And by the time of Be Here Now, we could afford that. Now there's a man with a vision. He knew, even before the first album, where he was going.

Professional

"You know, the album eventually got slagged off. And as the years go by, even Noel has slagged it. But I personally love it. My Big Mouth, Magic Pie – what great tunes." Drugs were as common as tea, though Bonehead tended to steer clear.

"Yeah, there's all the drugs. And if Noel says he was doing a lot of cocaine then he was doing a lot of cocaine. But one thing's for sure, Noel wasn't snorting 10 minutes before he was putting a guitar part down, he wasn't doing it before he went on stage. We were too professional for that. I certainly wasn't doing cocaine. On a Friday night I'd go home to my family while the others partied."



As a live act, there was no-one better in the world. During the mid-to-late-90s Oasis were on fire. That meant they never had a day off, which led to inevitable problems.

"There were loads of incidents, Liam would be like, 'f*** this, you can f***ing sing, I'm not doing this gig. I'm going to go and buy a house'. From day one to Knebworth, it was constant, man. In hindsight, maybe we should have taken a break.

"There should have been time to buy a car, have a holiday or buy a house. But we didn't. We kept going and going and going. We didn't complain. But s*** happens on tour.

"Generally you're big boys and it's forgotten the next morning. I had a good relationship with everyone. And I'm closer to Liam now than I've ever been in my life. I always used to say I was the rhythm guitarist and tour psychiatrist. If there was a little fallout when we were hurling down the motorway, I'd be the one pulling Noel and Liam apart and telling them to get over it and sit down. I always did jump in."

The Be Here Now album is being re-released

Iconic

Bonehead remembers the colossal nature of Knebworth – the iconic gigs that recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Flying around the site by helicopter showed him the magnitude of the gig. "It was massive. It was enormous. Just walking on stage and hearing the crowd: I'll never forget that. Then John Squire joining us for Champagne Supernova was a total buzz. I was a fan-boy on stage when John Squire came on.

"When I first heard the demo for Champagne Supernova, I cried. I'm a Cancerian, so I'm pretty weepy. I'm nearly crying now. Noel had the song and he played it. We'd had a few beers. It was amazing."

It's been 20 years since the start of Be Here Now and Bonehead's had time to take stock. When Oasis were huge, he didn't dwell. Life moved too quickly for him to think. The safest place was in the eye of the hurricane.

"We didn't have a laptop. We couldn't Google ourselves or look on Twitter so we couldn't see what was going on. We didn't even have mobile phones. We were just hurtling round the world doing it and leaving this trail behind us.

Brothers – Noel and Liam Gallagher

"I didn't really realise how big it got. It really took me two years after leaving the band to work it out. I got my head round it in 2001/2 – that was when I realised it. Before that, it was a rollercoaster, let's go for it."

He's in touch with Liam every day. "I'm very close to him. We try to get away and have a weekend in Europe or go and have a week away."

He left when he knew he could no longer give it 100 per cent. "We were recording Standing on the Shoulders of Giants in France," he said. "It should have been the best time ever but it just felt a bit flat to me. There wasn't that spark. You couldn't be in that band and not give 100 per cent. Anything less, you had to go. I wasn't going to lie. I sat down and said 'it's time to go'. I've never regretted it. I just wanted to spend a bit of time with my family."

By Andy Richardson

The Million Dollar Quartet rock again

ROCK 'n' roll show Million Dollar Quartet is based on the true story of when Sun Records boss Sam Phillips brought together Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins in the same studio.

That impromptu jam session in December 1956 represented probably the ultimate rock supergroup featuring the founders and icons of rock 'n' roll, who also went on to energise the country music scene.

Staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, the show will star Jason Donovan (himself no stranger to pop music fame) as the 'Father of Rock 'n' Roll', Sam Phillips, the man who launched several rock greats on the road to fame.

Million Dollar Quartet – recreating the night when rock icons jammed together

Legendary

The West End and Broadway show takes the audience inside the Memphis studio and brings to light an extraordinary story of broken promises, secrets and the poignant once-in-a-lifetime celebration of four friends.

Written by Tony Award nominees Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary night to life featuring a score of hits including Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, I Walk The Line, Great Balls of Fire, That's All Right, Folsom Prison Blues and Memories Are Made Of This.

Pop hit-maker turned stage star Jason Donovan said: "These songs are so iconic of the era and they relate not just to that period but to music today. It's the foundations of music all around the world in every genre.

"I thought the music of that era was outstanding, it's fun. It was sort of a rebellious period. There's some big characters. Essentially the story of Sun Records is an incredible music industry story about one man who took all these acts to the world."

And there is a local twist in that almost exactly ten years to the day that the session was recorded, 'The Killer' himself, Jerry Lee Lewis played a concert at Birmingham Hippodrome.

News fuels Omid show

AWARD-WINNING comedian and actor Omid Dhalili is coming to Wolverhampton as part of a massive 108-date UK tour of his brand new show Schmuck For A Night.

Of trying to make sense of the world around him in Schmuck For A Night, Omid said: "It'll be so current sometimes audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV."

As a stand-up and actor, Omid's credits range from Hollywood movies to productions on the West End stage. He has starred in films such as varied as Shaun the Sheep Movie, Mr Nice, Gladiator, Sex And The City 2, The Mummy and David Baddiel's The Infidel, in which Omid had the starring role.

He has also just been cast in Disney's new live-action production of The Nutcracker, which he will be filming alongside the tour. On TV recently, Omid has been seen in the BBC Four series Going Forward with Jo Brand, as well as in Dickensian for BBC1 and Stan Lee's Lucky Man for Sky1.

Documentary

Omid has also produced the acclaimed documentary We Are Many, about the global anti-war demonstrations that took place in 800 cities on February 15 2003. This August he produced an Edinburgh Fringe show called Iraq Out & Loud, which saw almost 1,500 people read out the Chilcot Report for 24 hours a day, over 12 days.

He is performing at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday, and returns to the region to play Redditch Palace Theatre on November 4, Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on November 15 and Oakengates Theatre in Telford on January 18.

The Exorcist brings Halloween terror

BIRMINGHAM Rep has assembled a powerful cast for a new stage version of The Exorcist from tomorrow (Friday) to November 5.

The play by John Pielmeier is drawn from William Peter Blatty's novel, on which the double Oscar winning movie was based.

Peter Bowles (from TV's To The Manor Born) plays exorcist Father Merrin, called to help a young girl, Regan. Jenny Seagrove (from Judge John Deed) plays Regan's mother and Adam Garcia is the young priest who finds himself in a duel with the devil with Regan's soul at stake. It's for over 18s only with scenes and language that may shock.

It's Heaven, Divine or relearn your ABC

THERE is an 1980s nostalgia this week with Heaven 17 and ABC both in Birmingham.

Glen Gregory and Martyn Ware will perform Heaven 17's Penthouse and Pavement album in full and reactivate off-shoot group British Electric Foundation at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday).

Martin Fry's ABC will be performing The Lexicon of Love and songs from its recent sequel at the Symphony Hall on Monday, the same night Neil Hannon's The Divine Comedy play Birmingham Town Hall. Or get up to date with JBs on Monday– Jake Bugg at O2 Academy or Justin Bieber at Genting Arena.

Minecraft fun and games with Dan

HE is one of the biggest names in the world – if you're into video game Minecraft. Now YouTube sensation DanTDM is coming to Birmingham with his smash hit brand of gaming chat.

The 24-year-old from Wellingborough has matinee and evening shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday and both are likely to be sold out.

Dan 'The Diamond Minecraft' Middleton has a YouTube channel with around 14 million subscribers where he posts his comic commentary videos, plus tips and advice for gamers. He said: "You can expect some custom-made TDM games and audience participation."

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

CHOICE

Helen Skelton

The School That Got Teens Reading (BBC2, 8pm)
Documentary charting one Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant teenagers to take up reading for pleasure. Despite receiving otherwise outstanding Ofsted reports, Ripley Academy in Lancaster has been struggling to engage its pupils in one of the most important academic skills. Having exhausted every other technique across hundreds of books, the staff turn to comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton for help in convincing their most reluctant readers to take the plunge.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. The battle for the Glitterball Trophy continues as Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman return to the Strictly Come Dancing ballroom for more dance-floor exhibitions. As ever, the 11 remaining couples each take to the floor in a bit to impress not only Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood, but also the viewers at home, who will get a chance to have their say once the judges have delivered their verdict. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Gaby Roslin.

9.10 Casualty. Robyn arrives at work in a state of panic, having failed to find out where Glen has gone. When David later finds her in agony in the toilets, it seems she might be about to lose her baby. Meanwhile, Elle offers Ethan two tickets to the hospital awards night. Caleb asks to take both off his hands so he can take Alicia, but Ethan is quick to spot a love rival, and refuses. He plucks up the courage to ask her to go with him instead – but it remains to be seen whether she'll agree.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream.

12.20 Film: Rogue. (2007) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Flight for Freedom. (1943) **7.55** Coast. (R) **8.25 Film:** Wonder Man. (1945) **10.00** Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **11.00** Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00 Film:** Notorious. (1946) **3.40** Flog It! **4.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Michael Cockerell witnesses battles breaking out over the future of the House as Speaker John Bercow runs into trouble with his own plans for reforming it. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. The platoon plans to re-enact the battle between St George and the dragon as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising effort – unaware the ARP wardens have the same idea. (R)

8.00 The School That Got Teens Reading. Documentary charting a Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant pupils to get into the reading habit, with help from comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton.

9.00 Film: The Invisible Woman. (2013) Premiere. A Victorian former actress recalls her secret relationship with Charles Dickens. Fact-based period drama, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes, with Felicity Jones.

10.45 Artsnight: The Man Booker Prize 2016. David Baddiel introduces this year's Man Booker Prize shortlist, while Mariella Frostrup, Val McDermid and George "the Poet" Mpanga meet some of the nominated authors.

11.15 Film: Revolutionary Road. (2008) A married couple live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth feel stifled by their situation. Sam Mendes' 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

1.05 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **2.05 Film:** Renoir. (2012) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled! **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Looped. **8.30** DC Super Hero Girls: Super Hero High. **9.05** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.30** Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months. (R) **2.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Rufus Hound, Nadia Sawalha and JB Gill answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The stakes get ever higher as the remaining acts progress through to the third live round. As ever, each of the would-be stars is called to perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Walsh and Sharon Osbourne, before Dermot O'Leary opens the public vote, giving the millions of viewers the opportunity to decide who they want to see returning next week. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Cold Feet stars James Nesbitt, John Thomson and Fay Ripley, who chat about the successful revival of the drama series. Jonathan also chats to comedian Joe Lycett, and Phil Collins, who will be performing in the studio.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) The captain of a cruise ship is less than impressed with the bungling antics of five new recruits who have replaced his regular crew. Comedy, with Sid James.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. **7.05** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races from Doncaster, Cheltenham and Newbury. **4.20** Four in a Bed. **4.55** My Kitchen Rules UK. **5.50** The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship. Cameras follow the multi-million-dollar expedition that discovered the Victorian ship HMS Erebus, intact and upright on the Arctic sea floor in September 2014. The story unfolds in the freezing Arctic, where search vessels battled with heavy sea-ice that threatened to stop the search entirely, to the dramatic chain of events that led to the historic discovery. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. Tony follows the Ridgeway from the Wiltshire Downs, through Berkshire and Oxfordshire, finally arriving on the banks of the Thames. Along the way, he visits a world-famous stone circle and explores an ancient burial chamber that is older than the pyramids, follows in the tracks of Celtic chariots, and discovers the story behind a white horse.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. Guest captain Richard Ayoade is joined by Rob Beckett, going up against Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman, with Adam Riches accompanying Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner and Rachel Riley dishing out the all-important consonants, vowels and numbers.

10.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 18th round of the season from the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

11.30 Film: Locke. (2013)

1.10 Film: The Great Beauty. (2013) **3.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.45** Food Unwrapped. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.10 Film:** Carry On Sergeant. (1958) **12.40 Film:** Carry On Regardless. (1961) Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James. **2.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Revisited 2. (R) **4.25** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.20 NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery – a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)

7.05 NCIS. McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured by the inmates, who have run riot and seized control of a cell block, afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. Held hostage as a bargaining chip, he tries to identify the real culprit before the warden takes drastic action to resolve the crisis. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Radio show DJ Kayla Anderson indirectly witnesses the murder of a US Navy captain when she hears him being shot dead over the phone during an on-air call. As the team investigates the first death, Kayla receives another call, this time from the shooter, indicating her life may be in danger too. Meanwhile, Pride's daughter Laurel returns home, having given up on her musical dream. Military crime drama, starring Scott Bakula.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Aston Villa v Fulham at Villa Park, Huddersfield Town v Derby County at John Smith's Stadium, and Nottingham Forest v Cardiff City at The City Ground.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Bradford City v Sheffield United, and Blackpool v Doncaster Rovers.

10.30 Film: Redbelt. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** The Code **10.55** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **11.55** Heavy Metal Britannia **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.35** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.05 You've Been Framed! Gold **11.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **1.25 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **3.25 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **5.15 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20 Film:** King Kong (2005) **8.50** Scorpion **9.50** The Xtra Factor Live **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** Final Destination (2000) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Final Destination (2000) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 FYI Daily **11.30 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **12.10 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **1.50** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Colditz **1.00** Wycliffe **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Pawn Stars **1.25** British Superbike Championship Highlights **2.55 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.50 Film:** Rumble in the Bronx (1995) **10.50** FYI Daily **10.55 Film:** Rumble in the Bronx (1995) **11.35 Film:** McVicar (1980) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** McVicar (1980) **1.50** Car Crash Global **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
11.30 Black-ish **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.15 Film:** Stuart Little (1999) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **3.20** Gogglebox **4.10** The Mindy Project

Film4
1.00 The House of Magic (2013) **2.40** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.25** Fletch (1985) **6.30** A League of Their Own (1992) **9.00** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **11.15** Wanted (2008) **1.25** Madhouse (2004) **3.15** Close

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CHOICE

Virginia McKenna

Virginia McKenna's Born Free
(Channel 4, 7pm)
The actress returns to the Kenyan locations of the classic movie about a lion being reared by humans to mark its 50th anniversary. Virginia shares her experiences of working alongside wild lions for nine months, revealing how she was able to earn the animals' trust, and reflects on how the film changed public perceptions of wildlife. The programme examines the political backdrop of the film, with footage of Kenya officially gaining independence from British imperial rule.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Britain's first commercial walnut harvest in Somerset, while Matt Baker meets a man in East Sussex who spends half of each year living off grid in a tree house made of recycled wood. A botanist reveals how he uses time-lapse filming to record fungi growing, Naomi Wilkinson discovers how conkers became a valuable resource during the First World War, and chef Cyrus Todiwala prepares Indian style sausages using rare breed woodland pork. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's contest, and the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off. LeAnn Rimes is this week's guest singer.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team value more rarities at Baddesley Clinton, near Solihull, including a rare silver box and a painting entitled The Nudist Colony's Annual Dinner Dance.

9.00 Poldark. Ross and Dwight face trial after the disastrous smuggling incident. George continues to send men to make Elizabeth feel threatened – then offers to help if she will marry him.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents Premier League highlights, including Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge, as Jose Mourinho returned to the club where he won three league titles.

11.30 Film: Eagle Eye. (2008) Two strangers go on the run from the authorities after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** American Football: NFL Live. New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (Kick-off 2.30pm).

6.00 Who's Spending Britain's Billions? Jacques Peretti looks beyond the well-known budgets of schools, hospitals and foreign aid to the range of taxation projects the public know less about. Peretti finds that local councils across the UK are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find. He also reveals that hundreds of the millions of taxpayers' pounds spent on these contracts are covered by confidential deals, meaning very little detail is known about them. In this revealing insight, Peretti asks if the public deserves to know more about how those charged with managing the nation's billions are spending it. (R)

7.00 Inside Obama's White House. The story of how Barack Obama resolved to reform the healthcare system in the United States, despite stern opposition from the Republicans and within his own party. (R)

8.00 Horizon: The Wildest Weather in the Universe. Scientists conducting research into weather on other planets, who have discovered strange phenomena including rains of precious stones, supersonic winds and world-spanning storms.

9.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. The series concludes with a journey along America's West coast, exploring the impact of the ocean on the landscape and animals gathering in the Sea of Cortez. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Ivo Graham and Romesh Ranganathan join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R)

10.35 QI XL.

11.20 Film: Downfall. (2004)

1.45 Sign Zone: Aberfan: The Fight for Justice. (R) **2.45** Countryfile. (R) **3.40** Holby City. (R) **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point. (R) **5.30** Doc Martin. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Angellica Bell, Oritse Williams, Leslie Ash and Ian Lavender pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's live show, revealing which acts are safely through to the next round. The two lowest scoring contestants compete in a sing-off in front of judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh to decide who gets to stay in the competition and who gets eliminated.

9.00 Tutankhamun. Carter returns to the Valley of the Kings to complete his search as the First World War draws to a close, but has to contend with Anti-British sentiment sweeping across Egypt.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R)

11.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. **6.40** Shipping Wars. **7.05** Frasier. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Posh Pawnbrokers. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Comedian Jack Whitehall joins the hosts. (R) **1.30 Film:** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **3.35** Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show featuring gifted youngsters. (R) **4.35 Film:** Sister Act. (1992) Nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier agrees to testify against her gangster boyfriend after witnessing a murder. Placed in protective custody by the authorities, she is less than pleased to discover she is expected to pose as chaste nun Sister Mary Clarence in a convent. Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Harvey Keitel, Maggie Smith, Bill Nunn and Kathy Najimy. Edited for language.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Virginia McKenna's Born Free. The actress recalls the making of the classic movie.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales take a trip to Bristol, where Timothy is soon to play King Lear at the Old Vic theatre. They both revisit the Devon homes they spent their childhoods in during the Second World War and board a replica of a 15th-century tall ship and a paddle steamer. Pru shares her memories of meeting evacuees from London in the small fishing village of Bucks Mills.

9.00 Film: The Grand Budapest Hotel. (2014) Premiere. An old man tells a journalist the story of his youth as a lobby boy at a hotel in Eastern Europe in the 1930s. He was taken under the wing of the establishment's dashing concierge, and is drawn into his misadventures as he becomes involved in a conflict over a valuable painting. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Ralph Fiennes.

11.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 18th round of the season at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

1.00 Film: Baggage Claim. (2013) Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton. **2.35** Food Unwrapped. (R) **3.05** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pets. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** Great South Run. **12.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.35 Film:** Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011) Comedy, with Martin Lawrence. **3.40 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore. (2010) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **5.15** Now That's Funny!

6.15 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of self-imposed exile in a Buddhist monastery to visit Africa and help search for a sacred white bat. However, his unique investigative talents are tested to the limits as he faces a race against time to find the missing creature and prevent a tribal war. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey, Simon Callow and Bob Gunton. Edited for sex and language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.15pm.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Ice road rookie Mike attempts his first solo delivery, while Lisa and Darrell secure a high-stakes mission to deliver some urgently needed electrical transformers to a distant town.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Need for Speed. (2014) Premiere. A street racer is betrayed by a friend, and ends up being framed for causing a death during an illegal contest. Two years later, he is released from prison and returns to the underground racing circuit with revenge in mind. Action adventure based on the video game, starring Aaron Paul, Dominic Cooper, Imogen Poots and Michael Keaton. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.30 Film: Takers. (2010) Six bank robbers plan a lucrative armoured car robbery, but a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon and Idris Elba.

1.30 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **8.00** Aberfan: The Green Hollow **9.00** Aberfan: A Concert to Remember **10.00** Arena: The Roundhouse – The People's Palace **11.00** Pink Floyd Beginnings 1967 – 1972 **12.00** Horizon: Dinosaurs – The Hunt for Life **1.00** Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor **2.30** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.30** Close

ITV2

1.15 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** I'm a Celeb: Junglicious Moments **2.45 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **4.40 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **6.25 Film:** Twilight (2008) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.30 Lewis **2.25 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **4.05 Film:** Carry On Henry (1971) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Carry On Henry (1971) **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Rising Damp Forever **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** Inspector Morse **2.15** The Kindness of Strangers **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** You're Only Young Twice

ITV4

1.00 Monster Carp **2.05** Cash Cowboys **4.00** Storage Wars: Texas **4.35** Storage Wars: Texas **5.00** Counting Cars **6.00** Pawn Stars **9.00 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **11.10 Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **1.20** Fishing Impossible **2.15** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

3.35 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.50** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **10.05** Crazyhead **11.10** The Inbetweeners **12.55** Gogglebox **1.55** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **2.55** Body Fixers **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **2.40** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **4.40** City of Ember (2008) **6.30** Life of Pi (2012) **9.00** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **11.40** Piranha 3DD (2012) **1.20** Sanctum (2011) **3.35** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Cradle 2 the Grave, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A Taiwanese undercover agent helps a master jewel thief track down the international crimelord who has kidnapped his daughter and is using her as a bargaining chip to obtain a cache of rare black diamonds. Action thriller, starring Jet Li, DMX, Mark Dacascos, Tom Arnold and Gabrielle Union. (2003)

TUESDAY
A Father's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Ambitious young attorney Carrie aspires to become a partner like her fiance, and eagerly accepts a billion-dollar wrongful death case in a bid to improve her standing in the legal profession. Thriller, starring Willa Ford. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
The Scorpion King, ITV, 10.45pm
A ruthless warlord resolves to rid the desert of its few remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the help of a legendary assassin to end the despot's reign of terror by destroying his source of power – a beautiful but deadly sorceress. Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson, Steven Brand ans Kelly Hu. (2002)

Tombstone, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Channel 4, 1.10am
Sequel to the 2011 movie Tanu Weds Manu. The couple are living in London but have grown bored with each other, so Tanu returns to India, begins divorce proceedings and returns to her flirtatious ways. Romantic comedy, starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut. In Hindi with English subtitles. (2015)

FRIDAY
Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm
Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer, Bill Paxton, Sam Elliott, Michael Biehn and Charlton Heston. (1993)

The final is set to end in tiers all round

When it was announced earlier in 2016 that The Great British Bake Off was moving to Channel 4, for many that was the final (cheese) straw.

In a year when we had to say goodbye to British legends Terry Wogan, David Bowie, Victoria Wood and Alan Rickman, as well as the shock Brexit result, the loss of one of the best loved shows on BBC One was too much to bear.

After series seven, no longer would we get to experience that twinkle in Mary Berry's eye as the whiff of a boozy cake wafted under her nose.

The thought of losing Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins was also horrific. The Light Lunch veterans provided a shoulder to cry on when the cookies didn't crumble the way contestants had hoped, or souffles collapsed like a bouncy castle's close encounter with a stiletto heel.

Obviously as the Beeb is paid for by the license fee, the thought of spending a fortune to keep it on an advert-free channel proved richer than a fruit sponge for the powers-that-be.

So, like former Beeb favourites Morecambe and Wise and The Voice UK, it will head for the land of ad breaks.

Though many might disagree, this has been one of the best years so far for invention, daring and downright nail-biting entertainment.

Who could forget Candice Brown's edible pub, or dazzling marzipan peacock?

Certainly not the millions of fans who were marvelling over her creativity while wondering where she got her inspiring ranges of lipstick.

Then there's Selasi Gbormittah, the Londoner who was the epitome of calm under pressure. His culinary creations also took the breath away.

And who didn't marvel at the work of Andrew Smyth, the Eddie Redmayne lookalike whose bakes were often Oscar worthy – if there was an award for most mouthwatering creations?

There were so many other contestants in this series who measured, whisked, stirred and kneaded while making silent prayers by their respective ovens that the silver fox would give his approval.

Yes, Paul Hollywood, the only GBBO veteran preparing to make the leap to Channel 4, has long been the hardest to please in this contest. Though Ms Berry summations have seemed spot on, Liverpool's most fearsome baking expert has never suffered fools gladly.

So whoever wins this edition, those final trials will be anything but a piece of cake.

But before the victor is announced around 8.55pm, spare a thought for all those incredible contestants who have won our hearts over the past six years.

Edd Kimber, Joanne Wheatley, John Whaite, Frances Quinn, Nancy Birtwhistle and Nadiya Hussain may have all clinched victory, but also rans such as Ruby Tandoh and occasional 5 Live contributor Flora Shedden often proved to be just as entertaining.

With talk of a new BBC baking show featuring Mel and Sue, let's hope that whatever happens for the splintered GBBO team, things don't end here.

The Great British Bake Off: The Final, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Autumnwatch 2016
BBC2, 8pm
It's not hard to see why Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan's nature series have become so popular. Aside from the often stunning footage of wildlife at different times of the year, there's the added bonuses of celebrity guests giving us their takes on the findings, and the dry putdowns of Packham when they deliver their artwork. As the new run begins, Chris, Michaela and Martin Hughes-Games are at Dorset's RSPB's Arne nature reserve, where they survey the local wildlife preparing for winter.

Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War
BBC1, 9pm
Every day more than 80 elephants are killed in Africa for their ivory, with experts warning that the African elephant could be extinct in the wild within 25 years if that rate continues. In this two-part documentary, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes on a mission to find out how this illegal trade can be stopped, beginning in the poaching hotspot of northern Mozambique. Hugh follows the trail through the Kenyan port of Mombasa to one of the busiest ivory markets in the world – Hong Kong.

TUESDAY
Ordinary Lies
BBC1, 9pm
After finding a note in her boyfriend Neil's pocket, personal assistant Holly convinces herself that he's having second thoughts about their relationship. Desperately unhappy and anxious, she starts to reminisce about her old flame, Adam Carver. Discovering that he is newly single, Holly assumes a new online identity to try and win back his affection. Meanwhile, newly divorced Ally is ecstatic when intern Ash asks her out on an official date. Drama, starring Kimberley Nixon.

WEDNESDAY
Little British Isles with Alison Steadman
Channel 4, 8pm
Alison travels across the English Channel to discover more about the idyllic life found on the Channel Islands. In Jersey, she dives into their cultural traditions and helps inseminate the iconic Jersey cow, and finds out more about how this island continues to hold onto its own traditional values. On Alderney, Alison discovers more about the abundance of wildlife found on the island.

Him
ITV, 9pm
After losing control of his powers and almost destroying his father's house, HIM's parents struggle to work out what is best for their son. His relationship with his step-sister Faith is pushed to its limits as he continues to fight his feelings for her, adding extra strain to his already unstable emotional state. Meanwhile, HIM discovers some unnerving truths about his grandfather's inherited powers after a visit to his grandmother's.

The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Apprentice
BBC1, 9pm
For their latest task, Alan Sugar summons the candidates to the Draper's Hall, where he informs them they are entering the luxury retail business, with each team taking over an area of world-famous department store Liberty of London. Over the course of two days, they must provide a personal shopping service for some of the capital's most discerning customers.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles
Channel 5, 8pm
Historian Dan Jones begins a new run of the series in Edinburgh. These days, the city's stunning castle is a well-known landmark, but it has had a traumatic past and is widely thought to be Britain's most besieged stronghold. Its hilltop location made it the ideal place for an Iron Age base, and the spot has housed a military facility ever since; it is also Scotland's most popular paid tourist destination and an event that took place there is said to have inspired the Red Wedding in Game of Thrones. Jones also discovers that the castle was the target of the world's first aerial bombing.

Still Game
BBC1, 9.30pm
Jack and Victor become unlikely marriage guidance counsellors when Fergie's head is turned by beautiful redhead, Kayleigh. While his wife of just one year, Sinead, is blissfully unaware her husband is lusting after another, Jack and Victor share their wisdoms about modern women's needs with Fergie. However, their well-meaning advice proves to be less than helpful. Meanwhile, Navid and Boabby job-swap to prove who has the cushiest career. Comedy, starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill.

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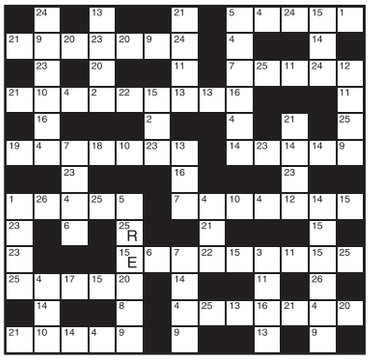
BRAIN GYM No.400

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to start you off.



1	14
2	15 E
3	16
4	17
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6	19
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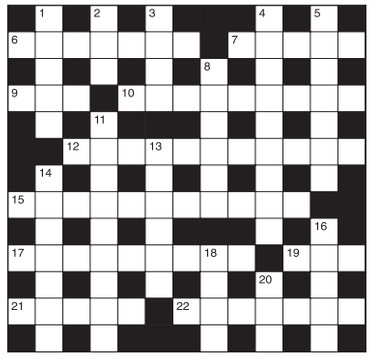
11	24
12	25 R
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	T	A	P	D	O	E	M	N	F	B	G	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	W	C	V	Z	Q	U	R	J	K	I	X	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Sum invested in chief city (7)
7. Craftsman, mother and boy (5)
9. See 20 Down
10. Making comments on the teacher's second correction of the work (9)
12. Sly when short of workers? (11)
15. Off the cuff, formerly not being intended to last (11)
17. Grief's fun when in pain? (9)
19. Little Dorothy returns in custody (3)
21. Live amicably in order to prosper? (3,2)
22. Again poetry can cause a setback (7)

Down

1. Request male to leave fruit (5)
2. Got teeth into a piece (3)
3. Strain of people in athletic competition (4)
4. Support first attempt on the rear door? (4,5)
5. A reckoner in the shop? (7)
8. Metal disc for getting clothes clean (6)
11. Less than 12 inches being trodden on (9)
13. Specialist was formerly saucy (6)
14. Egghead has 90 applications for apologies (7)
16. Raise one in the throng (5)
18. A requirement of Eden (4)
20 & 9Ac. The males grow old in this household (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Lasting (7)
7. Deluge (5)
9. Not many (3)
10. Shelter (4,5)
12. Poor (11)
15. Valise (11)
17. Razed (9)
19. Concealed (3)
21. Condescend (5)
22. Narration (7)

Down

1. Silent (5)
2. Manner (3)
3. Entreaty (4)
4. Unreasonable (9)
5. Sad (7)
8. Outcome (6)
11. Copy (9)
13. Dodged (6)
14. Defile (7)
16. Demon (5)
18. Apiece (4)
20. Lad (3)

Sudoku

		8		9				
		9			6	3	1	8
5			8		7		9	
			1		4			6
	5	3			2	8		
1			3		9			
	9		4			1		7
2	4	1	6		3			
				1		4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	9	6	4	1	7	3	8
1	8	7	9	5	3	6	4	2
4	3	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
7	1	2	3	6	5	4	8	9
9	4	5	7	1	8	3	2	6
3	6	8	4	9	2	1	7	5
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	7
5	2	4	1	7	9	8	6	3
8	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bard; 3 Moribund; 8 Brag; 9 Flashing; 11 Humiliations; 13 On time; 14 Scorer; 17 Raise the roof; 20 Nobleman; 21 Dine; 22 Pressing; 23 Ages. Down: 1 Babyhood; 2 Readmit; 4 Oilcan; 5 In stitches; 6 Union; 7 Dogs; 10 Old masters; 12 Triflers; 15 Rioting; 16 Strain; 18 Amble; 19 Snap. QUICK - Across: 1 Drop; 3 Wretched; 8 Safe; 9 Corridor; 11 Excursionist; 13 Strive; 14 Victor; 17 Amelioration; 20 Calendar; 21 Sure; 22 Nonsense; 23 Deny. Down: 1 Dispense; 2 Officer; 4 Rookie; 5 Tyrannical; 6 Hades; 7 Dark; 10 Prevalence; 12 Princely; 15 Tribute; 16 Morass; 18 Melon; 19 Scan.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which book is also called the Book of Changes?
2. From which bean is chocolate obtained?
3. In which country did John Bull compose the British national anthem?
4. Which Labour leader's middle names were Todd Naylor?
5. How many riders take part in a speedway heat?
6. In which city did the St Valentine's Day Massacre take place?
7. With what is the Weddell Sea usually covered?
8. What is the longest river in Scotland?
9. WIth which motor-racing team did Damon Hill become Formula One champion?
10. What type of creature is a merganser?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Doorways and passages;

2 Malcolm Bradbury; 3 A whale; 4 Polaris;

5 Walter Scott; 6 John Updike; 7 Three;

8 March 17; 9 Atlantic; 10 John.

Niner: DOCTRINES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6321 gives a painter,
82539 gives a composer,
1793411 gives another composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Lots Tor write home about after stay in Darwin Forest

By Graeme Andrew

The lovely pool to help holidays go swimmingly inside Evolution Health & Fitness

Pine lodges nestled in among the trees at Darwin Forest, near Matlock

FOR the perfect get-away-from-it-all holiday, in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the country, look no further than Darwin Forest Country Park near Matlock.

Bringing nature to the fore, luxurious facilities and backed by an enviable ecological ethos, this beautiful 44-acre park of pine lodges – set among some of the most spectacular landscapes in Britain – is ideal for both families and couples, looking for a break to remember.

Just stepping out of the car on arrival, immediately the freshness in the air took my breath away as I gazed upon rabbits scuttling around in the undergrowth. Then into the lodge itself, one of 100 sparingly dotted around the park, with enough space between to offer a real feeling of comfortable isolation – unlike some holiday parks where you can see what your neighbours are eating for breakfast.

Membership

Beautifully kitted out with all the mod-cons you will ever need, the lodges provide five-star self-catering luxury with a surprising amount of space, and if you are so inclined, a hot-tub all to yourself. Darwin Forest is a perfect base for touring and my wife and I had already taken advantage of our National Trust membership and visited Hardwick Hall before our arrival.

The highlights? An amazing walk, a huge pot of tea, and a stumpery in the lovely gardens – yes, a Victorian idea of building a unique wilderness around tree trunks with their gnarled shapes, Alan Titchmarsh would be proud.

We opted for a couple of walks during our stay, which at some points became scrambles, with a fair few hundred feet either side of us, but stunning nevertheless – Mam Tor at Castleton and the thrilling Chrome Hill, near Hollinsclough.

The majestic Mam Tor, near Castleton, also called the Shivering Mountain, following landslides

It was particularly surreal to come across what was described as 'the broken road' near Mam Tor – basically a landslide some years ago put paid to Castleton having a main road out of the village after it collapsed and pedestrians now have access to this unique experience of walking on something akin to a disaster movie film set.

We interspersed our exertions with excursions to Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham – a must-see, considering our location; along with visits to the charming Chesterfield and Buxton, with it's pretty Pavilion Gardens.

But the beauty of Darwin Forest is the vast spectrum of facilities and activities on offer, so that if you're not in the mood for tootling around and just want to spend time among the pines, there is plenty to do.

There are superb leisure facilities available, a lovely swimming pool, well-stocked gym as well as beauty treatments, with my other half opting for the de-stress massage session, and she gave that a big thumbs-up, having been trained as a masseuse herself. There is plenty to offer for the youngsters, with its Little Monkeys play area and the Activity Den that has arcade games, table tennis, air hockey and pool tables, to keep the bigger kids happy.

Everywhere you look there is a real feeling of everything being in its right place, with lovely décor for instance in the Foresters bar and restaurant, plus the Explorers café – perfectly complementing the unique surroundings. Families with dogs are welcome too and there are plenty of trails for walking and cycling, with bikes also for hire. An all-weather tennis court and mini-golf course is available for the more sporty types.

Finally, we did try the Trim Trak – a trail including a few physical challenges along the way! I thank the lord that there was no CCTV to record my attempts at the monkey bars and climbing wall, where it took all my gumption, despite scaling the heights of the Peak District, to come down the other side, sliding down a 10ft high wooden bar!

Still, at least the rabbits had a good laugh...

For further information on Darwin Forest, call 01629 732428, email enquiries@darwinforest.co.uk; or log onto www.darwinforest.co.uk.

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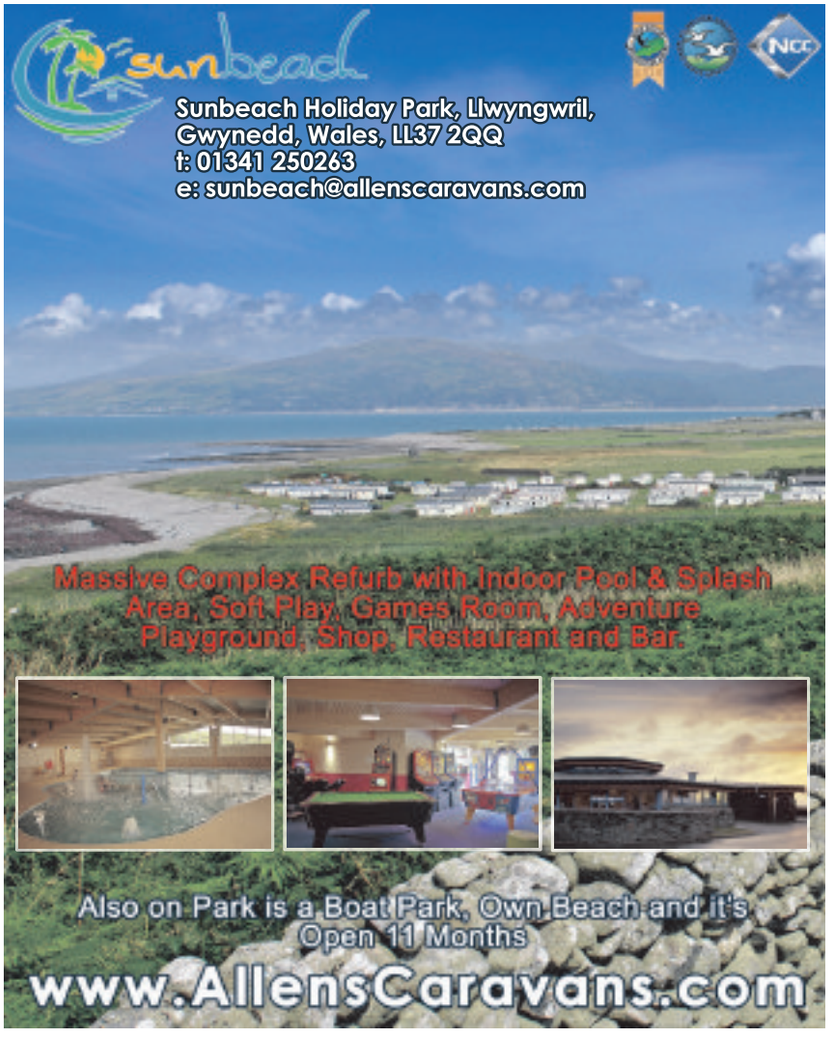

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C141GR Graphite
C141NY Navy

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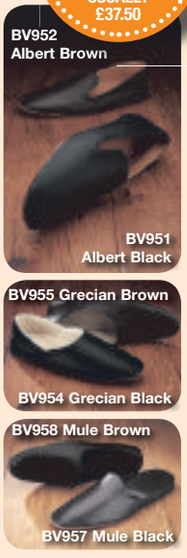

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

A well-presented and spacious three bedroom detached

DARLASTON £200,000

A well presented and spacious three-bedroomed detached house, 28 Dorsett Road, Darlaston, lies in a convenient position, close to amenities and schools.

It is for sale through Skitts at £200,000. With double glazing and gas central heating the property also has a garage to the rear.

With the home ready to move straight into, it is perfect for a family, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

The property's accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, a kitchen/dining room, a downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms, an upstairs shower room and a rear garden garage to rear.

In more detail the frontage of this home has a path leading to the front door. The entrance porch has a door opening to the entrance hallway with stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard. Reception room one overlooks the front. Reception room two has French doors opening out to the rear of the property. The dining room is ideal for entertaining.

Having a range of wall and base units, a sink with a mixer tap, the kitchen also has windows to the side and a door to a lobby that gives access to the rear garden and also a door into a downstairs bathroom. This has a window to the rear, with a suite comprising a bath, pedestal sink and low flush WC.

Off the first floor landing, bedroom one is positioned to the rear of the property, whilst bedroom two overlooks the front. Bedroom three is positioned to the rear of the house, while the shower room lies at the front.

Outside, the rear garden includes a patio area with a separate seating area with gates leading through to the lawned garden with a fish pond and a door into the large garage.

Skitts estate agents began in 1979 as a Partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years. This means the people who own the company run the company on a daily basis and are responsible for all aspects of its growth, success and professionalism. Currently, the four partners oversee eight branches and 30 staff across the West Midlands region.

KEY FEATURES

- 3 bedrooms
- Ideal for a family
- Rear garden
- Garage
- Close to amenities/schools

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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EMAIL: wednesbury@skitts.net

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Based on the final property selling prices achieved in Sandwell - GetAgent 19th September 2016

MOST SALES

An improved semi provides good-sized living space

SMETHWICK
£150,000 <<<

An improved semi-detached house, 63 Queens Road, Smethwick is a good sized property for sale through Tom Giles at £150,000.

Having the potential for extension to the side subject to planning, it lies in a popular and convenient location, within walking distance of many facilities. Recently improved by the current owner to include new central heating radiators, marble fireplace surround and "Living Flame" gas fire, "Hive" Wireless Thermostat.

With driveway parking for two/three vehicles it has an entrance hall with wood flooring, a kitchen with Beech finish units and a white enamel sink and a built-in fridge freezer and ceramic floor tiles, a lounge, conservatory, two bedrooms and a shower room and a detached garage and garden.

Contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit the website www.tomgiles.net

Launch day sales rush as homes are unveiled

WEST BROMWICH
£134,950

Homes newly released by Lovell Homes at its super-popular Harvills Grange development in West Bromwich were reserved almost immediately on launch day.

Five homes were snapped up just hours after being released at the development which has proved consistently attractive to homeseekers. "We had a fantastic response to our latest phase of two, three and four-bedroom homes," said delighted Lovell sales adviser Anita Culwick. "The development has a very strong reputation and with all earlier phases sold out, people have been eagerly waiting for the new homes to become available." Homes currently available start from £134,950 (£107,960 after a Help to Buy Equity Loan*) for the popular two-bedroom semi-detached Garston house style, with parking.

Contact 0121 2228 605 to find out more.

Home of the week

The Castleford

Plot 123

Four bedroom, detached home

Visit us today to find out more about this stunning, individually designed home, complete with four spacious bedrooms and three bathrooms. With homes selling fast at this popular development and just one Castleford available, don't delay!

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Well-presented modern property is ideal for family

An ideal first time or investment purchase, this modern three-bedroomed family home in Brunel Drive, Tipton is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £120,000 with no chain.

This nicely designed and well-maintained property briefly comprises of a reception hall and

TIPTON
£120,000

guest WC, a lounge with a window and French doors opening out to the rear garden, a fitted kitchen with light wood-effect modern units, contrasting working surfaces and splash-back tiling. Upstairs are the three bedrooms and a bathroom and an en suite shower room.

Outside there is a driveway to the front, additional parking to the rear and a rear garden. Viewing is strongly recommended. Call 0121 5223733 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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NEW

Hadzor Road, Oldbury

- A Traditional Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking and A Garage
- Stunning Rear Garden
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £249,950

NEW

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £234 950

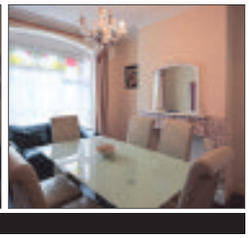
NEW

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Charming Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW



Rawlings Road, Bearwood

- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Starkie Drive, Oldbury

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Ideal First Puchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £114,950

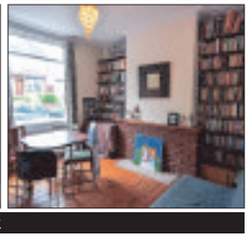
NEW

Oak Road, Oldbury

- A Well Presented, Extended Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms Plus Snug
- Three Bedrooms
- Beautiful, Generously Sized Mature Rear Garden
- Ideal Family Sized Accommodation
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £200,000

NEW



Rosefield Road, Smethwick

- Charming Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- Ideal First Puchase or Buy To Let
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £109,950

Bearwood Road, Smethwick

NEW PRICE

- Traditional Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £117,500

Old School Drive, Rowley Regis

NEW PRICE

- Modern Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £254,950

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Well presented detached executive home is must view

A well presented detached executive home on a popular estate in Waterside Avenue, Wednesbury is a must view!

With four bedrooms and beautifully presented throughout, it is for sale through Skitts at £270,000.

With central heating and double glazing it has a porch, an entrance hallway with stairs off, a guest WC, a lounge with French doors to the rear garden, a dining room which overlooks the front and a kitchen/diner.

WEDNESBURY
£270,000

The kitchen/diner has a range of wall and base units with roll top working surfaces, a built-in oven with a four-ring gas hob and extractor above and a door leading to a utility.

Upstairs bedroom one has built-in wardrobes and an en-suite shower room and there are three further bedrooms.

Outside, to the side of the property is a driveway and a garage and a rear garden.

Contact Skitts on 0121 5051818 or visit www.skitts.net

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Properties Urgently Needed

REDUCED
OLDBURY
VICARAGE STREET
Semi-detached Victoriancomprising vestibule entrance into reception hall,through lounge, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, bathroom, staircase to first floor with three bedrooms and shower room, staircase to second floor with fourth bedroom, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking to front and rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £207,500

OLDBURY
WATERSIDE COURT, TITFORD ROAD
A town house offering good sized family accommodation comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, , dining kitchen, lounge, master bedroom, ensuite shower room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking. Lawned garden at rear. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £199,950

OLDBURY
DEFFORD DRIVE
Improved and well maintained semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection comprising entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, small garage and off road parking. Lawned rear garden. EPC Rating TBC
Offers in the region of £169,950

SMETHWICK
PAVILION AVENUE
An extended well maintained and presented semi-detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac location offering good sized accommodation comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, lobby/utility, sitting room/bedroom 4, wet room, three bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating and double glazing. Parking to front and established private garden at rear. EPC Rating D.
Asking Price: £159,950

OLDBURY
EAST AVENUE
Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity comprising entrance hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen with built-in appliances, three bedrooms (all with built-in furniture), shower room, and separate toilet, central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating TBC
Offers in the region of £119,950

ROWLEY REGIS
PORTWAY ROAD
First floor maisonette offering good sized well presented accommodation having been updated in recent years by the current owner comprising vestibule, store cupboard, stairs to first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, double glazing, garden at rear and garage. EPC Rating TBC
Offers in the region of £94,950

ROWLEY REGIS
WINCHESTER CLOSE
A recently re-decorated and well-presented second floor flat comprising communal entrance, uPVC entrance door, hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, double glazing, electric heating, allocated and communal parking. EPC Rating E.
Offers in the region of £64,950

TO LET
OLDBURY
CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD
Spacious well maintained and presented semi-detached house situated in a popular and convenient location comprising front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, rear lobby, kitchen with built-in appliances, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating & double glazing, garden at rear with shed/workshop. EPC Rating D
£600 pcm

TO LET
OLDBURY
NEW MEETING STREET
An unfurnished ,ground floor flat offering ideal accommodation for a single occupant comprising entrance door to small hall, lounge and kitchen combined having ,dividing breakfast bar, bedroom and shower room off. Double glazing, electric heating and communal areas. EPC Rating C
£425 pcm

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Pheasant Road, BEARWOOD,

Family home within walking distance to Warley Woods Comprising a porch, two reception rooms, extended kitchen/Diner, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (master en suite), refitted family bathroom, front driveway, rear garden, garage

Offers Around £289,950

Cape Hill, SMETHWICK,

Second floor modern apartment comprising, hallway, two bedrooms (master en-suite), bathroom, open plan living/kitchen/dining, fitted kitchen, balcony, D/G and C/H, communal grounds, allocated parking.

Offers Around £109,950

Pritchard Close, SMETHWICK,

Three storey town house comprising, hallway, reception room, refitted kitchen, cloakroom, five bedrooms (Master en-suite), family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens, allocated parking

Offers Around £160,000

Marion Road, SMETHWICK,

Extended family home comprising, through lounge, extended kitchen/diner, shower room, four bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £185,000

Corbett Street, SMETHWICK,

Mid terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated where specified, rear garden. Close to shops, schools etc.

Offers Around £114,950

Sheepwash Lane, DUDLEY,

Recently constructed family home with, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor shower room, four double bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway, rear garden.

Offers Around £160,000

Thimblemill Road, SMETHWICK,

An extended semi detached property comprising, hallway, cloakroom, reception room, living room, refitted extended kitchen/diner, utility area, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate shower, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £164,950

MORE PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED

Kilderkin Court, SMETHWICK,

Town house in desirable location comprising, hallway, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, reception room, two bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens, driveway.

Offers Around £145,000

Corbett Street, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, loft room, rear garden, double glazed and centrally heated, close to shops, schools etc.

Offers Around £124,950

Ashcroft, SMETHWICK,

First floor apartment comprising, entrance hallway, two double bedrooms, reception room, bathroom, re-fitted kitchen, balcony, double glazed and storage heaters.

Offers Around £99,950

Lewisham Road, SMETHWICK,

Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, store room, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, double glazed and centrally heated. VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

Offers Around £104,950

Durham Tower, BIRMINGHAM,

First floor apartment close to the City Centre. The property comprises of entrance hall, lounge, double bedroom, kitchen/diner, bathroom, electric heating and double glazing.

Offers Around £79,950

Brasshouse Lane, SMETHWICK,

SEVEN BEDROOMS, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE SHOWER ROOMS, EXTENDED FITTED KITCHEN, STUDY, CONSERVATORY, CLOAKROOM, D/G AND C/H, DRIVEWAY, REAR GARDEN.

Offers Around £285,000

Park Road, BEARWOOD,

Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this semi detached property comprising, vestibule, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £229,950

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Brookfield Way, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- UPVC Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- Viewing Recommended
- EPC Rating F
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom
- Side Garage ● Rear Garden,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £134,000

Shrubbery Avenue, Tipton

- Lovely Traditional Detached Family Home
- Excellent Wide Frontage Position
- Gas Central Heating ● Most Windows UPVc Double Glazed
- EPC Rating F
- Lounge ● Sitting Room / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Detached Garage ● Side garden ● Additional Enclosed Yard,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £169,995

Birmingham New Road, Tipton

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Re-Furbished ● Vastly Improved
- 3 bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £139,950

Bilston Road, Tipton

- Traditional Detached Bungalow
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- modern fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

David Peacock Close, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Sought After Development
-
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● En Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom ● Garage ● Garden,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £157,995

Leveson Drive, Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Spacious Well Presented Family Accommodation
- Upvc Doubke Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- EPC Rating C
- Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen ● Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom
- 2 Car Driveway To Front ● Rear Garden,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Owen Street, Tipton

- Outstanding Terrace Family Home
- Immaculate Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating ● Loft Conversion
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen ● Guest Room with Toilet
- 3 Excellent Size Bedrooms ● Superb Bathroom
- Attractive Rear Garden ● Resident Parking,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

CALL NOW FOR A FREE VALUATION

Vicar Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional End Terrace Home
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
-
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential, Kitchen & Ground Floor Bathroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £116,000

Manorhouse Close, Walsall

- Modern Mid Town House
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
-
- Lounge & Modern Kitchen Area
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System
- Ground Floor Guest WC, Family Bathroom

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000

Cobham Road, Wednesbury

- Well Presented End Terrace Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: C
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System
- Off Road Parking To Fore, First Floor Shower Room

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Dove Close, Wednesbury

- Modern Detached Residence
- Four Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Energy Rating D
- Ground Floor WC
- Gas Central Heating System
- Majority Double Glazed
- Driveway & Garden, Modern Kitchen Including Utility Area

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £174,995

Cope Street, Wednesbury

- Double Fronted Terrace Residence
- Three bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
-
- First Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended
- EPC Rating F, Kitchen

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Church Lane, West Bromwich

- Extended & Much Improved Semi
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Enclosed Garden with Summerhouse, Entrance

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £169,995

Claypit Lane, West Bromwich

- New Property
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Master with Ensuite
- , Fitted Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £175,000

Adelaide Avenue, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Garage to Rear

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £130,000

Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich

- Well Presented
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- First Floor
- , Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £99,950

Marnham Road, West Bromwich

- End Terrace Property
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Central Heating, Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £240,000

Duke Street, West Bromwich

- Modern Build Detached
- Five Bedrooms
- Conservatroy
- Central Heating, En-Suite

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £230,000

Junction Road, Birmingham

- End Terrace House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Refitted Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £134,500

Wordsworth Street, West Bromwich

- End Terrace
- 3 Bedrooms
- Entrance Porch, Through Hallway
- , Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

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Salisbury House, West Midlands — TO LET

A studio apartment with Electric Heating & Double Glazing briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge / Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room & Communal Parking.

£350 pcm

Harrowby Drive, Tipton — TO LET

Modern first floor flat which briefly comprises, Reception Hall, Landing area, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom with shower & Parking Area.

£375 pcm

Avern Close, Tipton — TO LET

Well apportioned one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in a popular well established nieghbourhood with easy access to excellent transport links and local amenities. The property is in good condition throughout and internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation. Briefly comprises of Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Communal Gardens and Parking.

£425 pcm

Anchor Drive, Tipton — TO LET

For Viewings call 0121 522 3733

Modern ground floor apartment having the benfit of electric heating and double glazing. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven and hob, two bedrooms with shower over bath wash basin and w/c. The property has security intercom system and allocated parking space.

£495 pcm

Lewis Street, Tipton — TO LET

Ground Floor Self Contained Flat with in walking distance of Great Bridge. UPVc Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating Briefly Comprising: Open Plan Lounge / Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room and Parking to Rear. NO DSS NO PETS

£495 pcm

Creed Way, West Bromwich — TO LET

BEAUTIFUL 2 BED APARTMENT WEST BROM TOWN CENTRE DO NOT MISS OUT

Call us now to snap up this immaculate 2 bed ground floor apartment in the centre of West Bromwich

£500 pcm

Hurst Lane, Tipton — TO LET

A Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment situated on this popular development with easy access to transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating. Briefly comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom & Allocated Parking Space

£500 pcm

Church Lane, West Midlands — TO LET

Semi Detached in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor

£550 pcm

Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich — TO LET

AVAILABLE MID-SEPTEMBER DO NOT MISS OUT NEWLY REFURBISHED 3 BED END TERRACE EXCELLENT LOCATION

£675 pcm

Hall Lane, Tipton — TO LET

Middle Terrace Residence which benefits from UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Guest WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front Driveway & Rear Garden

£550 pcm

Windmill Street, Wednesbury — TO LET

FANTASTIC PRICE BEAUTIFUL 2 BED WEDNESBURY

Call us now to view this stylishly presented and superbly appointed two bedroom traditional terrace, situ-

£575 pcm

Groveland Road, Tipton — TO LET

Impressive Modern Town House, situated on this popular development close to excellent transport links and local amenities. The property offers a good standard of accommodation and internal viewing is recommended to fully appreciate, Briefly comprising of Reception Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three good size Bedrooms, Master with en suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, Private Rear Garden & Secure Rear Parking.

£600 pcm

Whitley Street, Wednesbury — TO LET

IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFUL 3 BED FAMILY HOME MINUTES FROM WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE

Do not miss the chance to snap up this beautiful 3 bed semi detached house located just 1 minute from

£625 pcm

Beaconsfield Street, West Bromwich — TO LET

STUNNING 4 BED FAMILY HOME AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Make the most of the opportunity to rent this beautiful 4 bed family home situated in a lovely cul-de-sac

£750 pcm

Slaithwaite Road, West Bromwich — TO LET

STUNNING PERIOD PROPERTY 3 BEDROOMS BEAUTIFUL FAMILY HOME

Do not miss out on this rare opportunity to let an immaculate 3 bed period property lovingly restored to

£750 pcm

Cobden Street, Wednesbury — TO LET

IMMACULATE 4 BED TOWN HOUSE GARAGE PRIVATE GATED RESIDENCE DO NOT MISS OUT

Do not miss this rare opportunity to let this immaculate 4 bed town house situated in a private gated estate

£900 pcm

Caroline Street, West Bromwich

Recently Refurbished Mid Terrace in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Lounge, Dining Room, Re Fitted

£600 pcm

Bramah Way, Tipton

A well presented and much improved two bedroom modern property, situated in this popular well established neighbourhood the property has been finished to a high standard and internal viewing is

£600 pcm

The Furlong, Wednesbury

A modern 3 bedroom end terrace, being centrally heated and double glazed. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, guest wc, 3 bedrooms, fitted

£650 pcm

Dudley Road, Tipton

Modern 2.5 storey Town House offering upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Well presented Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom,

£750 pcm

Lewis Street, Tipton

Recently Refurbished First Floor Flat having the benefit of Re Fitted Kitchen & Shower Room and New Floor Coverings Throughout. UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating briefly comprising: En-

£425 pcm

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton

Well Presented Ground floor apartment which benefits from UPVc Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating. Close to all local amenities and transport links briefly comprising: Reception Hall,

£450 pcm

Barncroft Street, West Bromwich

BACK ON THE MARKET DO NOT MISS OUT

£495 pcm

The Bantocks, West Bromwich

Executive Detached residence in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Extended Sit-

£900 pcm

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TIPTON LEASOWE ROAD
- Excellently Presented Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Extended To The Rear
- Lounge
- Dining Area
- Recently Refurbished Integrated Breakfast Kitchen
- Excellently Maintained Throughout
- Choice Corner Plot

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000

TITPON BEDFORD STREET
- Superbly Presented Four Bed Detached Family Residence
- Situated On A Corner Plot
- Four Double Bedrooms All With Built In Wardrobes
- Two Reception Rooms
- Integrated Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room
- Front & Mature Rear Garden

OFFERS AROUND: £267,500

TIPTON SHERWOOD AVENUE
- Spacious Extended Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Modern Family Bathroom
- Gated Off Street ParkingFor Several Vehicles & Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Cul-De-Sac Location

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950

TIPTON SHINGLERS DRIVE
- Modern Three Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Integrated Kitchen Diner
- Downstairs WC

- En-Suite To Master
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Beautifully Presented Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking With Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £144,950

TIPTON MONINS AVENUE
- Excellently Positioned Third Floor One Bed Apartments
- Tividale Quays Estate
- Allocated Parking

- Ideal First Time Purchase
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950

TIPTON MYRTLE TERRACE
- Elevated Two Bed Semi Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Wet Room

- Large Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

TIPTON AVERN CLOSE
- Modern Attractive Two Bed End Of Terrace
- Corner Plot
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

TIPTON GREAT MEADOW
- Modern Two Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Integrated Kitchen
- Downstairs WC

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

TIPTON GREAT MEADOW
- Modern Two Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Integrated Kitchen
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC

OFFERS AROUND: £114,950

TIPTON TIPPS STONE CLOSE
- Modern One Bed Apartment
- First Floor
- Lounge
- Integrated Kitchen

OFFERS OVER: £75,000

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NEW

ROMSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

SPACIOUS 3 bedroomed semi detached, CONVENIENT position, with DELIGHTFUL, LARGE rear garden, lounge and SEPARATE dinging room, RE-FITTED shower room, ATTRACTIVE kitchen, OFF ROAD PARKING, side CARPORT. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC C.

BEARWOOD **£164,950**

NEW

ALBRIGHT ROAD, OLDBURY

DELIGHTFUL, 3 bedroomed semi detached CONVENIENTLY situated, with LARGE, pleasant rear garden, SUPER RE-FITTED dining kitchen SPACIOUS 14ft lounge, 3 bedrooms, bathroom. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£159,950**

NEW

ALEXANDER ROAD. SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED, 3 bed intermediate terraced home in POPULAR neighbourhood, CONVENIENT for WARLEY WOODS, having DELIGHTUL 15ft lounge, FITTED 13ft breakfast kitchen, PLEASANT rear garden, MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£149,950**

NEW

WARLEY ROAD, OLBDURY

3 BED end terrace CONVENIENT position with NO UPWARD CHAIN, offering SPACIOUS 13ft lounge, BREAKFAST kitchen, PLEASANT, GOOD SIZED rear garden, OFF ROAD PARKING. must be viewed. epc E.

BEARWOOD **£129,950**

NEW

DOROTHY ROAD, SMETHWICK

3 BEDROOMED end terrace with NO UPWARD CHAIN, providing PLEASANT rear garden, OFF ROAD PARKING, offering SPACIOUS 14ft Lounge, 14ft dining kitchen, shower room, MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating: D.

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

NEW

CEMETERY ROAD, SMETHWICK

NO UPWARD CHAIN - having two LARGE 15ft reception rooms. 12ft kitchen which leads to D/S bathroom with bath AND shower cubicle. 3 bedrooms on first floor & FIRST FLOOR WC. Gardens to front & rear. Having gas central heating & UPVC double glazing being fitted. Within 1 mile of Smethwick Rolfe St station. EPC rating: E

BEARWOOD **£120,000**

NEW

SOLD STC

HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS family home with 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & GARAGE. Lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, downstairs wc & utility room. REFITTED shower room, parking & garden to front plus rear garden. GCH (where stated) & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: E.

QUINTON **£235,000**

NEW

SOLD STC

ALBERT ROAD, OLDBURY

SPACIOUS - WELL PRESENTED home with Lounge & Separate dining room, kitchen, 28ft utility/store area & dwc. LARGE rear garden with SOUTHERLY ASPECT. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. Majority UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£209,950**

NEW

SOLD STC

HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

IMMACULATE home with GARAGE to rear giving off road parking. REFITTED kitchen with built in appliances & NEW boiler (2014). 2 reception rooms with feature fireplaces. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. WELL PRESENTED gardens. GCH & UPVC double glazing fitted. EPC: C

QUINTON **£159,950**

NEW

SOLD STC

WARWICK ROAD, OLDBURY

DELIGHTFUL 2 bedroomed (originally 3 bed) semi detached home in POPULAR cul-de-sac position, with LARGE 19ft conservatory, FITTED kitchen, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, PLEASANT garden, GARAGE at rear. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£149,950**

NEW PRICE

DOROTHY ROAD, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED mid terrace, CONVENIENTLY SITUATED, with OFF ROAD PARKING & PLEASANT rear garden. Having ATTRACTIVE lounge, 13ft breakfast kitchen & d/s WC. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. Double glazing & maj gas central heating fitted. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

NEW PRICE

ASHBOURNE ROAD, EDGBASTON

SPACIOUS intermediate terrace, CONVENIENT for gaining access to BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, with NO UPWARD CHAIN, dg & gch, offering lounge and SEPARATE dining room, 3 BEDROOMS (bed 3 access via bed 2), PLEASANT rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

BEARWOOD **£119,950**

NEW

BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Spacious DUPLEX apartment in GATED development overlooking Brandhall Golf Course. 16ft lounge diner & 11ft kitchen on 1st floor. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom on 2nd floor. Electric heating & UPVC glazing. Communal parking & gardens. Lease details TBC by seller. EPC rating: E

QUINTON **£79,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

HARBORNE ROAD, WARLEY

Extremely SPACIOUS semi detached home with DELIGHTFUL gardens, POPULAR location, handy for WARLEY WOODS/GOLF COURSE, offering 4 DOUBLE bedrooms, WELCOMING hall, 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen & utility area, Downstairs shower room & upstairs bathroom, OFF ROAD PARKING. epc tbc.

BEARWOOD **£279,950**

NEW PRICE

SOLD STC

DOG KENNEL LANE, OLDBURY

NO UPWARD CHAIN - EXTENDED detached home with 26ft tandem GARAGE and 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. Having 3 reception rooms on the ground floor & REFITTED kitchen. 3 bedrooms, WC & REFITTED shower room. LARGE driveway to front, PRIVATE lawned garden to rear. UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: E

BEARWOOD **£229,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

BERRY DRIVE, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED, spacious, MODERN, family home, upon this POPULAR DEVELOPMENT, with gas radiator heating, double glazing, having Entrance hall, WC,LOUNGE, dining room, FITTED KITCHEN, 3 BEDS, bathroom, GARAGE, pleasant rear garden. EPC rating C.

BEARWOOD **£169,950**

NEW PRICE

OLD CRESCENT COURT, OLDBURY

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Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

4 Pets & Animals

tree services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

DARK TORTOISEHSELL Kitten, 12 weeks old, to a loving home. £25. 07392 202914.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BLOXWICH AREA 1 bed flat, CH, DG, £395pcm. Dep reqd. Mature DHSS considered. 07737 661639.

HEDNESFORD AREA 2 bed terrace house, refurbished, no pets, n/s, no DSS, £550pcm + deposit, + guarantor. 07745 002055.

ROOMS & STUDIOS from £65pw inc most bills, no deposit, available immediately! 07884 185580.

WE NAILED IT!

Classified Advertising Works!

To advertise your business call 01902 319 191

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE

You agree the price, we buy the house.

● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ...

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

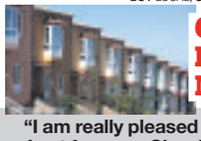
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0767

*Terms and Conditions apply

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

courses

ADR COURSES WITH CRH Now back in the Black Country. From W/C 26th Sept 0121 3231777

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

drivers

HGV CLASS 2 DRIVER general haulage. UK work, good rates. Call 07973 493720

employment wanted

ADMIN /RECEPTION/GENERAL OFFICE WORK WANTED
Smart lady, 50, seeks perm/ temp role. Excellent references. Walsall & surrounding areas. **07976 888820/01922 635813.** goodman1921@hotmail.co.uk

full time - general

YARD OPERATIVE required for Wednesbury based scaffolding company. Duties to include yard labouring, storeman, FLT driving and general maintenance. Must have driving licence and over 18. £17.5K p.a. Contact Joe Norton SBBS Building & Scaffolding Ltd 07918 742851.

GENERAL ASSISTANT / FITTER
required for **Double Glazing Company** in **Oldbury, West Midlands**
To assist with installations, remedial work and general factory work.
Experience in the trade preferable, as would be a clean driving licence.
Wages based on 40 hours per week, negotiable depending on experience, or on a sub-contract basis.
Telephone **0121 544 2222.**

motor trade

MANUAL/COMMERCIAL GEARBOX BUILDER (Salary depending on experience) Must be experienced in all areas of refurbishing. Varied variety of gearboxes to build to high standard. Based in Birmingham. Please send your CV to trudy@powertransmissions.uk.com or Tel: 0121 773 9931

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

BARGAIN
FORD FIESTA
3 DOOR HATCHBACK 1.2
N reg.
65,000 miles from new.
One owner.
12 months MoT.
£350 ono.
07999 880409.

BARGAIN
FORD FOCUS
Zetec, hatchback, 1.6, 2002, petrol, 86,000 miles, eight month MoT, Alloys, Towbar.
£475 ono
07702 600743.

BARGAIN
PEUGEOT 106
1997, MoT May 17, MoT history, 85,000 miles.
Good and reliable.
£225 ono
07503 000706.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
PEUGEOT 206 LOOK
2002, 4-dr, china blue.
Low miles 43,000.
one former lady keeper.
MoT'd till April 2017, FSH
£750.
0121 5302758.

MUST BE SEEN
RENAULT SCENIC
53 plate, 1.5 DCi, diesel,.
Full MoT, Renault FSH.
2 cam belt changes by Renault.
Lots of money spent.
Loads of receipts.
£975 o.n.o.
07460 593092.

★★★
ROVER 216 SLi
1995, 122,000 miles.
Attractive red metallic.
EW, power steering, sun top.
10 services by 2 owners.
Excellent condition.
£285.
07771 428793.

BARGAIN
ROVER 75
ESTATE 2.5
Needs MoT but in good condition.
Stored for four years.
£395 ono.
0781 6852592.

VAUXHALL OMEGA ELITE
3.0, V6, auto, 2001, 75,000 miles, blue metallic, leather, fsh, new cambelt and water pump, towbar, MoT March, excellent condition.
£995 ono.
07971 269191.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

cars over £1500

7 SEATER
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO
VTR HDi SE DIESEL
09 reg, 0.6cc, red, ten months MoT, automatic, 7 seater, fridge, CD player, 67,000 miles, very good condition,
£3,800 ono.
0121 5251157.

CLASSIC VW BEETLES
One is a 1300, purple.
Mot'd till Nov 2016,
The other is a 1303s.
Porche blue, no MoT.
Both 1972.
In good condition.
£3,700 ono each.
Telephone 07895 675997.

starplan

RETAIL MANAGER
REQUIRED FOR OUR WEDNESBURY SHOWROOM
SALARY NEGOTIABLE - OTE £40,000 plus pa

The Starplan factory (150,000sq.ft) based in Northern Ireland has the most modern machinery to produce high quality furniture that is marketed at a competitive price to take a strong market share. Starplan require a positive Sales Manager to make sure this happens. The position will suit a person who has the skill to convert good quality leads with his or her sales consultants and showroom staff.

The position will be challenging. It is for someone that gets satisfaction from achieving high sales for our quality product. The position is for someone who has proven themselves in sales and would like to take on a new challenge.

The salary will be by negotiation, but with determination will be OTE £40,000 plus per annum to the successful applicant. As a family business, the Managing Director will work closely with the successful applicant to give any help needed to achieve their goals.

So if you think you are self-motivated, determined, want to work with a highly supportive team and are looking for a rewarding career with job satisfaction please send your CV to:-

The Managing Director, Starplan Furniture Ltd
173 Killyman Road, Dungannon
County Tyrone. BT71 6LN
Tel: 028 87725497
Email: lynda@starplanbedrooms.net
(Closing date for applications: Tuesday 1st November 2016)

COLSON CASTORS LTD
Colson Castors Ltd is a leading manufacturer of castors worldwide.

colson

Our UK operation, based in West Bromwich is looking to fill the following position:-

ASSISTANT BUYER

The successful candidate will have drive, be assertive and have the ability to communicate effectively and confidently, offering a practical approach to situations. This role offers a variety of challenges and you should have the ability to adjust to change whilst working within set guidelines. Your ability to negotiate, influence and manage change within the purchasing function will be a vital component in this challenging role.

The role requires at least two years experience within the purchasing environment. Working towards or qualified CIPS . Travel both UK and overseas could also be part of the job requirement.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV and current salary to :-

Karen Cooper, Purchasing Manager - Colson Castors, Golds Green Works, Bagnall Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 OTS. E-mail: kcooper@colson-castors.co.uk

Closing date for applications : Friday 28th October 2016

NO AGENCIES

DORWINGEAR LTD
DOOR & WINDOW GEAR SERVICES

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Vacancy for the post of Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor to support the Works Manager in all aspects of PPM and reactive works.

Must be a good communicator and able to liaise well with customers and the onsite engineers. To include planning and scheduling of all PPM works in accordance with contracted periods, The successful candidate will be liaising with other members of staff to manage the day to day reactive works, ensure materials are sourced in advance of any planned works and manage the issuing of plant.

All applications to be in writing with CV to Dorwingear Ltd, 107 Hospital Street, Birmingham B19 3XB, and application open until Friday 28th October.

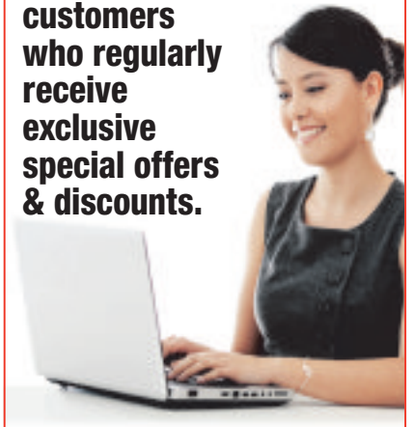
Wood Green Academy, Wednesbury WS10 9QU
0121 556 4131

CLEANER VACANCIES:
Full time Cleaner
Monday to Thursday: 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Friday: 3:30pm to 5:30pm
Hourly rate: Between £7.53 and £7.67 depending upon experience (Grade A band)
Application packs for all the above are available on the school website.
www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk
Completed application forms can be emailed to admin@woodgreenacademy.co.uk with the subject line 'Cleaner Vacancies', or, posted to the school marked, 'Cleaner Vacancies'
Deadline: Midday on Friday 4th November 2016
The successful applicants will be employed through TempLink in the first instance.
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.



ClassifiedAds

FORD FIESTA 1.25 Zetec

3 Door, 2014 (64) reg. Frozen White.

3D-Aircon, electrics, bluetooth, alloys, 21,000 miles. Manual petrol, two years old.

Beautiful car,

£9,250

Call 01543 671976 / 07970 780726.

LOW MILEAGE

HONDA JAZZ

1.2, petrol, manual.

Milano red, MoT till May 2017.

Only done 3,215 miles.

Perfect condition,

BU13XEM.

£6,250.

0121 588 7677.

MUST BE SEEN

JAGUAR X TYPE

2001, 2.5cc, automatic, private plate, petrol, four wheel drive, 83,000 miles. Gear box gone.

Offers

01543 672508 / 07967 934171

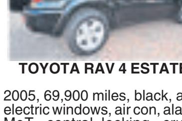
FOR A QUICK SALE

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

06 Reg., black, long MoT, fsh, 51,000 miles, extras.

£2,850 o.n.o.

07790 886946.



TOYOTA RAV 4 ESTATE

2005, 69,900 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, sunroof, stereo, CD, very good condition.

£3,295 ono.

07958 215758.

classic cars

ALFA ROMEO CABRIOLET

2 litre T Spark, 2001, 77,500 miles, metallic silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, red leather interior, good condition.

£3,000 ono.

07982 149413.

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/16/59879	Peak Power Connections Limited RCA Regeneration	Site At Junction Of Nelson Street And Parsonage Street Oldbury B69 4PH	Proposed operating reserve (STOR) with up to 20MW capacity and 4.5m high acoustic fencing.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/16/59759	C/o Agent Sterling Power Group	Land North Of Siddons Factory Estate (accessed Via Howard Street) Ocker Hill West Bromwich	Proposed change of use to a standing reserve power plant with palisade fencing.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Doulton Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Public Footpath Closure (FP46/RR) and No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restriction) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding via Public Footpath FP46/RR as recorded on the Rowley Regis Definitive Map and statement dated 06/03/54. The footpath is located between Doulton Road and Springfield Primary School. Pedestrians will be diverted via Doulton Road, Walton Close, public footpath linking Walton Close and Springfield Close, Dudley Road and vice-versa. A prohibition of waiting (no waiting or loading at any time) restriction will be installed on the northern side of Doulton Road between No.25A Doulton Road and the boundary of the Cock Inn Public House. Work is expected to be completed by 01/05/17, effective from 31/10/16. Purpose – support and safety measure to a new housing development by Kier Living Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Park Avenue, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Park Avenue, Rowley Regis from the junction of Church Road for a distance of 100 metres. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/11/16 effective from 10/11/16. Traffic will be diverted via Church Road, Rowley Village, Bell End and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main renewal works.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Johnson Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Johnson Road, Wednesbury between Warner Road and Booth Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 02/12/16 effective from 28/11/16. Traffic will be diverted via Warner Road, Walton Road and vice-versa. Purpose – repairs to a sewer.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Victoria Road and Coneygree, Tipton) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Victoria Road, Tipton between Peel Street and the railway bridge and Coneygree Road, Tipton between the railway bridge and Tudor Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 03/11/16 effective from 31/10/16. Traffic will be diverted via Sedgley Road East, Mayfair Gardens and vice-versa. Purpose – removal of vegetation around railway bridge.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!!!

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY!...

"For over 30 years we have used Express & Star classified adverts which has resulted in many happy caravan owners!" *Hillandale Caravans*

"I average around 10 phone calls a week from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels." *Mr Causer.*

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates." *Black Country Homes*

"Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates are really pleased with their classified contract advertising response." *John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates.*

"I am extremely happy with the Service get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!" *Michael - Portway Fencing*

Call 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE GENTLEMAN, AGE 40

From West Bromwich area. Very genuine, easy going, laid back, lovely natured. Lots of love and care to offer. WLTM nice lady, aged from 35-52 for weekends out and long term relationship. Photo appreciated and returned.

Box Number P20582 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENT 63

Would like to meet nice, cuddly, lady, aged 60-66 for quiet nights in or evenings out or just phone Friends for a while.

Box Number P20581 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOCAL LADIES avaliable & looking for Fun in your area, call to hook up (no text). Tel: 0700 8026 348.

MALE 65

Good looking, fit, semi retired business man, a millionaire in life, WLTM a sophisticated lady to complete the jigsaw.

Photo please (returned).

Box Number C20577 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MATURE GENTLEMAN

Widowed, young at heart, with GSOH but lonely seeking that special lady, genuine and young at heart, ideally 66-72, for sharing times together in companionship or friendship, to enjoy chats, coffees and enjoyable days/evenings out together.

Ideally Rugeley and 10 mile radius.

Please write to: Box Number P20583, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MR MAGIC

Love you with all my heart and soul.

Are you OK?

Worry when you are away.

Mrs Magic

X X X X X

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
Classified Ads

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call: 0844 281 5026 and follow the simple instructions. You will also get £10 SMS CHAT CREDIT

To ***Place*** your ad by text: Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098 FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit: **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

To ***Reply*** to members call: **0906 500 3955** calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge. Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text: *Text...* **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on: **0906 500 3957** calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424495**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SEXY brunette 39, petite, brown eyes, seeks energetic discreet guy for no strings fun and friendship. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424451**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

HEATHER, 48, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424429**

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 42404**

TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's you pls call, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA. I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

SUSAN, 43, pretty green eyed brunette looking for an interesting attractive man who would understand my wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424381**

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curvy lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 424385**

JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255**

JANETTE 38 yrs black married lady looking for no strings fun with white man, any age. **Box 4008771**

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTM gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339**

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261**

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424337**

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424335**

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253**

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTM chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424333**

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424331**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 57, widow, likes dining out, country pubs, good conversation and laughter, seeks genuine professional gent, with a gosh with similar interests, to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424157**

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424231**

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101**

LOUISE, 39, tactile good-looking solvent female WLTM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055**

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on, lets share all the good things life has to offer together! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085**

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021**

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529**

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051**

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57,,attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignations. **Text only Mailbox: 5546538**

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for genuine male with gosh, for friendship. Walsall area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424025**

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015**

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single man. **Text only Mailbox: 5535192**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903**

Single Men

TALL, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

RETIRED male seeking companionship maybe more. No time wasters. **Text only Mailbox: 5542315**

ITALIAN male, 46, from Oldbury, seeking female, 30-50, for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424371**

TIM, young at heart, intelligent, fun loving, spontaneous, GSOH, WLTM a lady with a GSOH, for friendship and possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424395**

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. **Text only Mailbox: 5561456**

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893**

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. **Text only Mailbox: 4362854**

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789**

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, OHAC, solvent, so get back if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027**

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131**

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067**

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363**

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177**

MALE 43 slim, non-smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. **Text only Mailbox: 5543476**

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like-minded girl. **Text only Mailbox: 5545609**

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454**

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997**

GEORGE 48, seeking mature female 50 to 80 for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5525079**

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991**

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

ATTRACTIVE open-minded male 57, seeks open-minded female any age or status to share adult times. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

YOUNG 66-year-old attractive male would love to meet lovely lady for friendship, to enjoy meals out etc. **Text only Mailbox: 5536750**

MALE, attractive, tall, medium build and intelligent would like to meet genuine mature caring lady who wishes for a sincere relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5537519**

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Six trim lines, badged 1, 2, 3, 4, GT-Line and First Edition

Sportage has been Kia's best-seller in the UK

It's a tough cookie make no mistake

Sharon Walters

Kia's third generation Sportage back in 2010 was a real game changer for the Korean company which was well known for decent cars with very good warranties, but there was little else to make you very interested.

Then along came the stylish SUV designed by Peter Schreyer which started to turn heads. And this year the fourth generation, also designed by German-born Schreyer who put his mark on the Audi TT, is turning heads even further.

The Sportage crossover has been Kia's best-selling model in the UK, stealing sales from other brand's offerings, and the latest model certainly looks to continue that trend. Buyers see it as a quality car, well equipped, well priced, excellent warranty and a good looker. There are 18 variants with prices starting from £17,995 on-the-road including for the first time GT-Line versions which add an even more sporty flourish to the range. The line-up is headed by the luxurious First Edition model, priced at £31,645. GT-Line models start at £24,350.

Four engines and three transmissions are available including a 1.6 litre T-GDi (turbocharged gasoline direct injection) unit and a 7DCT (seven-speed dual-clutch automatic) gearbox, both of which are reserved exclusively for GT-Line. In addition there are a 1.6 litre GDi petrol and 1.7 and 2.0 litre turbodiesel power units from the third generation but now all with improved fuel economy and CO2 reductions of up to 29g/km, which means lower company car tax for the Sportage's business drivers.

The six trim lines are badged 1, 2, 3, 4, GT-Line and First Edition. All versions powered by the 1.6 litre GDi and 1.7 litre CRDi engines are front-wheel drive, while those powered by the 1.6 litre T-GDi unit and the two 2.0 litre CRDi diesels have all-wheel drive.

All versions of Sportage are generously equipped and feature an extensive package of comfort, convenience and safety items. Standard across the range are 16 inch alloy wheels and all-round disc brakes, a black diamond-mesh grille with chromed surround, front foglights, LED daytime running lamps, cornering lights, chrome-coated belt-line mouldings, smart black cloth upholstery with a grey headlining, electrically adjustable door mirrors, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshifter, all-round electric windows, air conditioning, a DAB radio, Bluetooth with music streaming, USB and AUX ports, 12-volt power outlet in the front and rear, Trailer Stability Assist, Hill-start Assist, Downhill Brake Control and cruise control with speed limiter.

I tried out the 1.7 CRDI '2' Eco which at £22,050 on-the-road is probably the best value in its sector. There's a whole raft of specification in addition to that already mentioned, with one of the best satellite navigation systems in its audio/communication and information systems. On top of that, as with all Sportages in the range, you get a seven year/100,000 mile warranty, anti-perforation warranty, paint warranty and roadside assistance.

Inside there's plenty of legroom all round and a large boot. Plus the rear seats have a 60/40 split fold and you also get reclining seats. Quality of interior finish is high and smart and the dashboard is tidy, too many today are far too cluttered and mixed up, with everything clearly marked and not an initial guessing game to see just what they will do! And the buttons are not made for the tiniest fingers to operate. Getting a good driving position is easy to achieve and, of course, there's a wide view all round of the road.

On the road the Sportage is stable and precise on winding country roads (and I did a lot of driving on those during the test) and was very comfortable on a long motorway journey covering hundreds of miles smoothly and leaving me fairly refreshed at the end. And fuel economy was impressive. It's rare to achieve the 'official' figures from any manufacturer but I did get very close to the 61.4 mpg in my combined cycle of lanes and motorways on a 400-mile trip. In fact I had to keep checking the range to ensure I didn't run out on some of the more remote sections of the journey.

Safety is always important and besides all the active and passive systems on board, Sportage has a five star safety rating from Euro NCAP – earning particular mention of its ability to protect passengers of all sizes in all seats. And NCAP is a tough cookie from which to gain top star rating. Kia's team has made the Sportage an even better. Wait for the awards to come rolling in.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Very new and ... hardly new at all!

This car looks good from whichever angle you look at

Fiat's 124 Spider has a driver-focused cockpit

By James Fossdyke

Amazingly, the 124 manages to be both very new and hardly new at all. It shares little more than a name with the old 124, which went out of production in the 1980s, but it shares much with a far more modern roadster – the fourth-generation Mazda MX-5.

The bodywork takes cues from the old car, what with the round headlights and the wide, vertical grille, but applies them in a distinctly modern way. The majority of the underpinnings, meanwhile, are pretty much straight from Mazda's much-acclaimed drop-top.

Granted, the suspension has been tweaked, but otherwise the only major change is the new powertrain. Unlike the MX-5, which uses naturally aspirated 1.5 and 2.0-litre engines, the 124 gets a 1.4-litre turbocharged engine. It sits between the two Mazda engines in power output, but the turbocharger gives it more torque and more mid-range grunt.

No matter which angle you approach it from, the 124 Spider is an impossibly pretty car. From the wide front and the wide, rounded headlights to the creases in the long bonnet and the square tail lights, it's a stunning thing to look at.

Inside, it's basically identical to the MX-5, with the circular air vents, driver-focused cockpit and seven-inch infotainment system that perches on the main dashboard. There are a few differences, though, such as the optional Tobacco leather fitted to our test car and the gear lever, which is slightly more comfortable and ergonomic.

As with the MX-5, the 124 Spider is hardly the last word in spaciousness. It's only a two-seater, and there isn't even a glove box as such, although you do get a small cubbyhole in the centre console and a lockable box between the seats.

Official

There is a little more space in the boot, but it's hardly cavernous back there. Official figures tell you there's 140 litres of space, although you'd be hard pushed to get much in. The opening is far narrower than the boot itself and because there's a huge boot lip, you'll have to heft heavy items quite a way to drop them in.

It's more than just the lack of storage that makes the car impractical, however – it's the lack of adjustability. The seat has plenty of fore and aft adjustment, but the backrest adjustment is notchy and the seat base doesn't move up and down. The biggest problem, though, is that the steering wheel doesn't adjust for reach. It's a small issue really, because it'll be fine for most, but taller drivers might struggle to get comfortable.

With the MX-5 as a baseline, it's no surprise that the 124 Spider is a great car to drive, but there is a very different character to the Fiat.The 138bhp engine may be less powerful than the MX-5's 158bhp 2.0-litre unit, but it offers similar performance. The 7.5-second sprint from 0-62mph is two-tenths slower than the Mazda's, but the 134mph top speed is marginally faster.

In the real world, though, it actually feels substantially quicker than the Mazda. The turbocharger gives it real punch and means you don't have to drop so many cogs when overtaking. There is a touch of turbo lag, which is a little annoying, but keeping it on the boost is a small, yet rewarding, challenge.

Whereas the MX-5 is pin-sharp, the Fiat is a little woollier on turn-in, and the body rolls more than the Mazda.

The steering, too, is a touch less direct. But those small concessions don't stop it being a really good car to drive briskly. The MX-5 is the ultimate driver's car, and though the 124 is a half-step behind in terms of excitement and involvement, it's actually a far better all-rounder.

The 124 Spider pricing starts from £19,545, which buys you the basic Classica trim. It's £1,100 more expensive than the basic 1.5-litre MX-5, but you do get the more potent turbocharged engine, 16-inch alloy wheels, keyless start and air conditioning, as well as other niceties such as cruise control.

Upgrading to the £22,295 Lusso gives you 17-inch alloys, climate control and the seven-inch infotainment system, which comes with satellite navigation and a reversing camera.

At the top of the range, however, is the £23,295 Lusso Plus, which adds leather upholstery, automatic lights and wipers and a Bose surround sound system.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Don't judge car by its cover – look inside

New Mazda 3 starts from £17,595 – looks pretty much the same externally, but what's inside?

By John Griffiths

This is one for real car enthusiasts of the future: what's the difference between the 'old' Mazda version?

The answer – in visual terms – is a little testing because the changes are indeed subtle. But underneath the skin is a very different story. It sounds and feels like a whole new car, as it benefits from some of the latest technology handed down from the flagship Mazda6. The use of new and higher quality materials in the cabin is obvious. But the real story is how the 2017 car feels to drive – quieter, smoother and more refined – as well as being safer.

Prices range from £17,595 to £24,195, meaning a model for model increase of around £200 despite the raft of improvements. There are two petrol engines and two diesels, including the tax-busting 1.5 litre oil burner added to the 3 range last year with its 99g/km CO2 rating.

It's a good-looker in any company, particularly (for me) the coupe styling of the Fastback model, although the hatchback is likely to be the biggest seller. There's no mistaking where 'Son of 3' gets its sleek looks from, The changes are in the detail, with a bolder new grille and badge and revised fog lamp housing, plus a new bumper for hatchback models. The real giveaway is the new door mirrors which now incorporate wrap-around indicator lights.

The overall impression of the cabin is of a major upgrade, thanks to higher quality materials and new trim. The adoption of an electronic handbrake (which automatically releases as you let in the clutch) frees up space for a bigger centre console storage box with sliding cover. What you don't see, but do experience as you drive, is the considerable extra soundproofing in the roof, doors, dashboard and transmission tunnel, as well as new door seals.

Whether petrol or diesel, the new Mazda3 must be one of the quietest cars in its class: indeed its a whispering rival to some more expensive brands. This sound reduction is enhanced on diesel models technology called transient control, which reduces turbo lag (meaning brisker, petrol-like initial acceleration) as well as reducing diesel rattle on start-up or under load.

But one of the biggest changes is Mazda's G-Vectoring – something you'll never hear, feel or see but will be imperceptively be there, working away to make you seem a better, smoother driver.

Put simply, its computer brain monitors throttle and steering inputs and subtly varies torque between the driven wheels, aiding turn-in, traction and stability.

Combined with improvements to the MacPherson strut suspension, this endows the new 3 with a significantly smoother, more comfortable ride in a car which can match many a hot hatchback for its dynamic abilities.

While the instrument display is revised for greater clarity, a new head-up display atop the instrument binnacle is an excellent option. Now in colour, it displays your speed, the local speed limit and includes traffic sign recognition, as well as satnav instructions which are clearly displayed on a transparent perspex3 Hatchback is screen.

The 3 hatchback is a full five seater, with plenty of head and legroom for adults even in the rear. Boot space is 364 litres, rising to 1,263 litres with the rear seats folded flat.

The most economical engine is the 1.5 litre, 105PS turbo diesel, with 270Nm of torque (more than the 2.0 litre petrol stablemate) for quiet, easy cruising on long motorway runs. It's 0 to 62mph time is a class average 11 seconds, but those who go for this option will be attracted by its official 74.3mpg average economy, with a road tax free 99g/km CO2 rating. Perhaps more popular with the business sector will be the 150PS, 2.2 litre diesel with a whopping 380Nm of torque. It's the sprinter of the family yet is still credited with economy of just over 60mpg and a low 104g/km of CO2. The 2.0 litre petrol's vital statistics are 8.9 seconds, 55.4mpg, and 119g/km of CO2.

There are four trim levels to chose from, with impressive levels of equipment. Many of the technological options are safety-based, including the 'smart city brake' system which uses radar sensors to warn, and if necessary, brake the car to prevent a rear end collision.

There's also 'emergency indicators' – hard braking switches on the hazard warning lights for a few flashes, alerting drivers behind that you've just pulled up rather quicker than they might have expected.

The new Mazda3 hasn't changed a lot of the outside – but since it still looks sleek and modern, why would you change it?

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KW12OSB Ford Ka Zetec 1.2 Zetec [Start Stop] 3 Door Hatchback Blue 19,752 miles £4991
DN11RYG Ford Ka Edge [Start Stop] 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Red 19,845 miles £4991
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BP14BJF Suzuki Alto SZ 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Silver 10,820 miles £5291
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BD64VGJ Fiat Panda POP 1.2 5 Door Hatchback White 3,559 miles £5491
DN59WZG Fiat 500 Sport 1.3 Multijet Diesel 3 Door Hatchback White 29,624 miles £5491
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BV12NUH Ford Ka Zetec 1.2 [Start Stop] 3 Door Hatchback White 8,775 miles £5791
BX63OTF Kia Picanto 1.0 5 Door Blue 22,909 miles £5991
DS12FZX Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 8V VTR+ 5 Door Blue 44,865 miles £5991
DU13ZGL Suzuki Swift SZ3 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Blue 36,843 miles £5991
BV63DWU Suzuki Swift SZ2 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Blue 15,401 miles £5991
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YN14PUK Suzuki Swift SZ2 1.2 5 Door Hatchback White 12,963 miles £6291
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CE63OLN Ford Fiesta 1.9 HDCi Diesel ECOnetic 3 Door Estate White 10,796 miles £6659
BN64GZM Suzuki Swift SZ2 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Red 10,127 miles £6791
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BV15TBX Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ3 5 Door Hatchback White 8,408 miles £7491
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BK65UEH Suzuki Swift SZ2 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Silver 2,386 miles £8791
BJ65VCY Suzuki Swift SZ3 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Cosmic Black 100 miles £8991
BN61BUE BMW 1 Series 116i 2.0 Sport 3 Door Hatchback Red 25,467 miles £8991
BG65FFN Suzuki Swift SZ3 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Boost Blue 10 miles £9591
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

A wide radiator grille is amog Kodiaq's striking features

All variants get the 'Swing' infotainment system

Mid-sized SUV is a strong contender

Michael Weston

Skoda enters the mid-sized SUV segment with this Kodiaq, a model with class-leading passenger space, plenty of luxurious touches and the option of seven seats.

It can tow up to 2.5-tonnes and has the largest boot in the class too. In other words, you'd have to take this contender seriously.

The mainstream Kodiaq engine range is built around two TDI diesel units and a trio of TSI petrol powerplants.

Most will want the 2.0-litre TDI unit, offered with either 150 or 190PS, with the pokier version able to accelerate this large SUV to 62mph in 8.6s on the way to 130mph. The range of petrol engines consists of two 1.4 TSI units, plus a 2.0 TSI powerplant.

The entry-level 1.4 TSI generates 125PS and 200Nm of torque, while the pokier 1.4 option manages 150PS and 250Nm of pulling power.

The top-of-the-range 2.0TSI petrol engine develops 180PS with a decent 320Nm of torque. It'll be a rare choice though.

Possibly of more interest than the engines on offer will be the freshly-developed 7-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox, an option to the standard 6-speed manual with some variants. An optional 'Driving Mode Select' system enables the driver to tweak throttle response, steering feel and auto gearshift timings, plus on 4x4 versions there's a 'Snow' setting that optimises things for off road use.

Front wheel drive is mandatory on the 1.4 TSI 125PS petrol Kodiaq and optional on the 1.4 TSI 150PS or 2.0 TDI 150PS derivatives. Most will want 4WD though and you have to have it on top petrol and diesel units that must also be coupled with the auto transmission.

The Kodiaq's styling conforms to the way you'd expect a big Skoda SUV to look, with a clear, precise and clean-cut shape marked out by a distinctive, highly recessed shoulder line. The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is quite striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance. TheKodiaq is one of the biggest VW Group models to be spun off the conglomerate's MQB platform.

It's around 4.7m in length and the long wheelbase and short overhangs point to a large interior.

That's certainly what you get once you take a seat inside. This is a much bigger SUV than the brand's Yeti, which ample room for heads, legs and knees. The boot's huge too, large enough in fact to accommodate the optional fold-out third seating row that rival Volkswagen Tiguan and SEAT Ateca SUVs can't offer.

If you stick with the five-seat variant, there's a 720-litre cargo area, extendable to 2,065-litres once you fold the rear bench.

If the optional folding passenger seat is chosen, this SUV can transport items up to 2.80m long. An electrically operated tailgate is available, and a Kodiaq fitted with a drivetrain can tow a trailer weighing up to 2.5-tonnes. It's all very practical.

Approach purchase of a Kodiaq armed with a budget in the £28,000 to £35,000 bracket and you'll find you've managed your expectations about right. That's about the same kind of money you'd need for obvious family SUV rivals that offer 7-seat options, cars like Kia's Sorento, Hyundai's Santa Fe and Mitsubishi's Outlander.

Equipment levels are quite generous. Even entry-level variants get Skoda's 'Swing' infotainment system with its 6.5-inch screen. It can be supplemented with a smartphone Bluetooth connection and the 'Skoda SmartLink' set-up. 'SmartLink' supports the use of Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and MirrorLink. Plus there's a 'Phonebox' option that charges a smartphone inductively using the Qi standard and connects to the car aerial – both processes occur wirelessly. There's also the opportunity of specifying a 'Skoda Connect' package that gives you various online services, remote access to your car via a downloadable app and a 'Care Connect' system that provides emergency assistance.

As for safety, well a 'Front Assist including City Emergency Brake' system is standard, using a radar to scan the road ahead for potential accident hazards as you drive. Adaptive Cruise Control, a 'Driver Alert' system to combat fatigue and a 'Traffic Jam Assist' system are all optional.

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VAUXHALL

The Wolves 1907/08 home shirt that features in the book

Wolves' Championship 2002-03 play-off final shirt

Author Steve Plant, aged 55, from Stourbridge, with his Wolves book They Wore The Shirt

Skipper Danny Batth models the 1980 League Cup winning shirt

Old gold memories as Wolves tops charted

FEW football shirts are as iconic as the old gold and black of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

First donned in 1889, the colours have graced the backs of Wolves greats through the good times and bad. Now the history of the shirt has been put in print by die-hard fan Steve Plant and the book was launched in style with a host of past and present players, club staff and hundreds of fans.

They Wore The Shirt, a 255-page coffee-table book, is the product of the author's vast personal collection and his commitment to documenting the history of the club through the shirt.

Only 1,877 copies have been produced – a nod to the year Wolves were formed – and it comprises glossy pictures of 113 shirts.

Plant, aged 55, said: "There are many shirts in there that people will never have seen before and perhaps didn't even know existed. It is the entire history of Wolves done from a different angle."

Flannel

It begins by chronicling the club's inception and the team founded in 1877 by a group of pupils at Blakenhall's St Luke's school. Plant writes that knitted or worsted jerseys and later gentlemen's flannel dress shirts typically formed a player's attire at that time.

Most notably the shirt worn by the early St Luke's side featured blue and white hoops. By 1883 the club had switched to red and white vertical stripes – the reason still remains a mystery.

In 1889 gold and black was adopted for the first time to match the colours of Wolverhampton's coat of arms created a year earlier. The motto on the coat of arms read Out Of Darkness, Cometh Light – with black used to symbolise the dark and gold representing the light. After a brief return to red and white in 1890, a new Football League order requiring teams to register official colours forced Wolves back into gold and black stripes to avoid a clash with Sunderland.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

"It reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

The earliest shirt pictured is the 1907-08 home jersey. It is believed to be the oldest Wolves jersey in existence. It came to Plant via a dusty attic in Canada.

There is a suggestion that it may have belonged to John Brodie, who played a key part in the formation of Wolverhampton Wanderers, with his family believed to have emigrated to Canada.

Other notable entries include the shirts worn by Wolves greats in the hugely successful 1950s.

Among them are the floodlight friendly fluorescent gold shirts made famous by a series of challenge matches against top Continental club sides.

Amon the pictures are the very shirt worn by Honved hero Roy Swinbourne who provided the catalyst for the famous victory over the Hungarian side in 1954, shirts from Wolves FA Cup victories and an England shirt worn by Billy Wright against Germany.

A selection of popular Umbro shirts follow from between 1970 and 1986 including the 1977-79 home jersey, voted the club's most popular of all time in a Twitter poll conducted by Plant. The book then enters 'The Bully Years' with the iconic sponsors including Staw Distribution, Mander Paint & Ink and Goodyear.

Its final section charts the Millennium Years including the 2002-03 play-off final shirt worn by goalscorer Nathan Blake.

Plant started collecting Wolves shirts to show his father John after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just months to live by doctors.

He said: "I would take each shirt round to show him as I got it and you could see it would put a sparkle in his eye. That was when I started buying anything and everything Wolves related."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Birmingham Children's Cancer Unit with the hope of raising £20,000.

Favourites

Among those attending the launch at the WV1 Bar in the Stan Cullis Stand were current skipper Danny Batth, team-mates Nouha Dicko and Richard Stearman and old favourites Steve Bull, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Phil Parkes, Willie Carr, Steve Daley and Colin Brazier. TV presenter Jacqui Oatley and former players George Elokobi and Matt Jarvis sent messages via a special video.

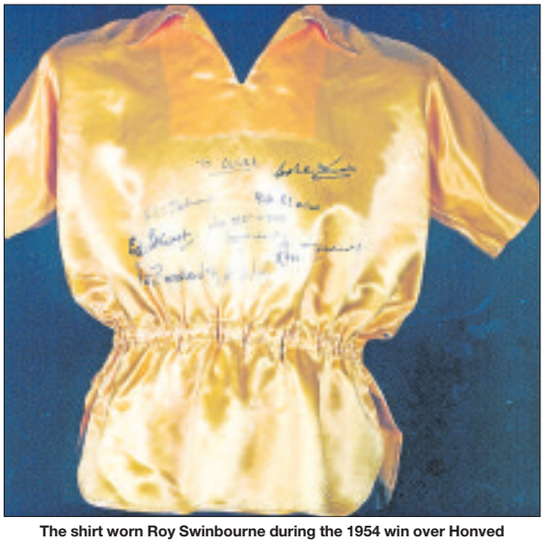
Plant said: "The Wolves shirt is the fabric of the club and it reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

Current players modelled the shirts for the book including Batth who said: "It's the story behind the strips that everyone's interested in and it's nice to be part of and to be able to show my support."

Record goalscorer Steve Bull said: "It's unbelievable. I didn't know what half of those shirts were like."

Hibbitt added: "Looking at some of the photographs in there brings a tear to your eye when you see all the boys."

For a copy, see www.theyworetheshirt.co.uk



The shirt worn Roy Swinbourne during the 1954 win over Honved

Legend Kenny Hibbitt leafs through the shirts history book

John Richards, with a 1974 Wembley shirt at the book launch at Molineux

Increasing physical activity across whole community

Sandwell Leisure Trust has Quest accreditation

The logo of Sandwell Leisure Trust

Keep babies close during Sling Swing sessions

Tennis coaching is on offer throughout the borough

Zumba is one of the fitness classes on offer

Gentler exercise for the older participants

Sandwell Leisure Trust not only operates nine leisure facilities across the borough, it also has a Sports Development and Physical Activity team.

The team includes both Sports Development Officers and Physical Activity Development Officers whose roles are to increase sport and physical activity participation within the local community.

They support groups/sports clubs and communities to increase participation by helping to set up new activities and develop an infrastructure for sustained activity, as well as supporting organisations to access various funding streams to set up localised activities that meet community need.

There are a range of sessions for people to attend which are listed on the community sports and fitness timetable that can be found at www.slt-leisure.co.uk/community-sessions- in-sandwell

Sessions are available for all ages. For expectant and new mums there are pre and post natal yoga, mamma-licious activities, sling swing and beanie boppers.

The pre and post natal yoga is for new and expectant mothers offering a low impact activity suitable for those who are pregnant or who have just given birth and want to be active. Mama-licious is a fitness class where you can bring your baby, there is an area in the middle set aside for the babies to play with equipment provided, whilst you can participate in a fitness circuit or some other physical activity.

Sling swing is a fun and gentle movement class where little ones are worn in slings/baby carriers enabling parents to participate with young children, removing the barrier of childcare.

Family

Beanie Boppers is a fun and funky dance class which develops rhythm and co-ordination using props.

If you want to be active as a family you could try tennis.

Our sessions combine coaching as well as competitive tennis for all the family, and we have sessions in parks as well as at Tipton Sports Academy.

There are fitness sessions available such as Zumba, which is a danced based exercise class, or circuits which combines a variety of activities using body weight or equipment to target specific muscles.

For older participants we have a senior circuits session and a new project which is just launching the ABC project. The sessions combine physical activity with bingo and the chance to socialise and have a cuppa.

These sessions are not your 'traditional' type of physical activity sessions, but more around engaging older people and combining physical activity with social elements. Many of our community-based sessions have been externally funded so are offered at reduced prices from free to £2.50.

All these sessions are part of the community reward card scheme.

Once you have registered for this scheme you will receive a card which you get signed off every time you attend a session.

When you have attended 10 sessions you can attend one of our leisure centres and try the facilities (either a public swim, fitness class or gym session) for free.

This scheme is to encourage participants who may not normally use the leisure centres to experience the facilities and see what else Sandwell Leisure Trust has to offer.

For more information please call Sandwell Leisure Trust Sports Development Team on 0121 506 4980 or visit www.slt-leisure.co.uk

Beanie Boppers class at Wednesbury Leisure Centre

A Activity

B Bingo

C Cuppa

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1.30pm-3pm - Langley Swimming Centre

Thursdays
10.45am-12.15pm - Wednesbury Leisure Centre

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Sport

Book of old shirts brings back golden memories

Page 50

Title fight setback for Langford

'BAGGIES Bomber' Tommy Langford has suffered another blow in his quest to become British middleweight champion by his title fight being postponed.

Langford had been due to vie with Sam Sheedy for the vacant belt at the Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff a week on Saturday. But the show has been pushed back to Saturday November 26, due to circumstances elsewhere on the card.

Injuries to WBO world middleweight champion Billy Joe Saunders and British super welterweight titlist Liam Williams has ruled them out of the original date.

Promoter Frank Warren has decided to push his bill back a month, meaning a frustrating wait for Langford. The 27-year-old has already seen his fight left in limbo once, after champion Chris Eubank Jnr withdrew citing an elbow injury and gave up his title.

Sheedy took the opportunity to go for glory on a BoxNation-televised card at shorter notice, after winning an eliminator against Redditch's Andrew Robinson through a points split decision.

Both co-challengers are now left kicking their heels and re-evaluating their training camps, with Langford forlorn at the latest setback. He said on Facebook: "Absolutely gutted the show has been delayed. Full refunds are available. I know it doesn't solve all of the money (my supporters) spent on travel and hotels and, for this, I'm extremely sorry.

Warren added: "We have, obviously, not had a lot of luck with this event, first of all being let down by Chris Eubank Jnr and now the two main fights on a card falling out on the same day. We have no choice but to postpone the card to a month later." Tickets for the rescheduled Langford versus Sheedy are still available by calling the Box Office on 029 2022 4488 or at www.motorpointarenacardiff.co.uk.

New chance for boxer Lennox to prove himself

BOXING under the Matchroom banner with the Sky Sports cameras rolling will come with a sense of deja vu for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke.

The big-time again comes calling for the heavy-handed super middleweight prospect on Saturday.

Clarke has featured for Matchroom once before and at the same venue, the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, back in May 2015.

The 25-year-old laboured to a routine four-round points victory over Alistair Warren on that occasion with a performance he feels didn't do him justice.

Then the match was made for him to return to the same arena for a shot at the Midlands middleweight title, against champion Craig Cunningham. But Clarke pulled out citing illness with Cunningham instead outpointing Adam Jones in a six-rounder. That sort of opportunity hasn't knocked since.

Clarke returned to small hall shows and has picked up four more victories, three by TKO. Two were first round stoppages, the other halted in the second. He now has 13 wins from 13.

Goalkeepers sign on the dotted line

Albion Ladies keeper Beth Gallagher

FIVE young players have signed for professional teams after being nurtured through a specialist goalkeeping course.

The current 10-week Goalkeeper Development Scheme is being held at Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane Oldbury, from 6-7pm on Tuesdays. Sessions are also run at centres in West Bromwich and Dudley.

The structured course covers specific progressive drills in all aspects of goalkeeping. It is run by UEFA B coaching licence holder Dave Woodhall and his team and draws on more than 20 years of experience. Woodhall himself is a former pro and while at Birmingham City was Jack Butland's first coach.

Latest young players off the production line are Liv Wells and Kiera Scarlett, who have signed for Wolves, Jake Jones, who has joined Shrewsbury, Beth Gallagher, who has transferred to West Bromwich Albion Ladies from Aston Villa and Drew Hutchinson, who is at Burton. They have attended Goalkeeper Development three times a week throughout this summer and have all been with the coaching programme for more than two years.

In all, more than 80 players have been supplied to local professional teams from the three coaching schools.

Places are still available. Contact www.goalkeeperedevelopment.co.uk or call 07507 892274.

BAGGIES ON RIGHT TRACK

IT was so nearly the archetypal Tony Pulis victory.

Having weathered the mother of all first-half storms, Albion were two minutes away from pulling off a 1-0 win against the only unbeaten side left in the top two tiers. Typical Tony.

But then Spurs' Dele Alli finally managed to overcome Ben Foster and instead the match ended in the familiar 1-1 draw.

Five of the last seven meetings between these two teams have finished with that scoreline, including the last three in a row.

Before Alli managed to poke the ball past Foster and a despairing Darren Fletcher on the line, Albion were on the verge of the perfect robbery and the perfect story.

Nacer Chadli – who left Spurs a few weeks ago to find first-team football – returned from the international break having been recalled to the Belgium team to sting his old club with a smart finish eight minutes from time.

He didn't celebrate, but boy did everyone else.

With each passing week the 27-year-old's stock at The Hawthorns rises to unparalleled levels. That's four goals and two assists now in his first handful of games.

The central tenets of Pulis remain, that much is clear. Albion are still difficult to break down, still willing to shove 10 men behind the ball and still willing to grind out results. But with Chadli in the team, this side are far more watchable.

There were over 2,000 more fans at The Hawthorns on Saturday compared with the last home game against West Ham, when the attendance dipped to its lowest ever for a 3pm Saturday kick-off in the Premier League.

Most of them were probably there to see the Belgian. He's also had an impact on his teammates. James McClean and Salomon Rondon have visibly benefited from having that link-up man in the side.

In fact, the in-form Ireland international was better than Chadli on Saturday, and his contribution to the goal shouldn't be forgotten.

There will be some who furiously point out that Albion only had 29 per cent possession at home, but those supporters are missing the point. Tottenham are title challengers, that is a certainty, and they are one of the most exciting young teams in Europe.

Record Albion signing Nacer Chadli wheels away after opening the scoring against his former club

Disappointing conclusion for Heathens

CRADLEY saw their season come to a disappointing conclusion with a 62-27 defeat at Eastbourne in their Knockout Cup semi-final second leg.

The Motor Market Heathens travelled to Arlington in need of a miracle to reach the Grand Final after going down 47-43 in the first leg at Monmore Green.

But they were well beaten in wet conditions, suffering a heavy 108-71 aggregate loss.

It was a tough evening for Will Pottinger's side, who never recovered after conceding three 5-1s in the opening three races.

Skipper Max Clegg put in a fine display, reeling off four straight wins in his final four rides including victories over Adam Ellis in heats 13 and 15.

But he received little support as the Heathens ran 13 last places – and he admitted they were simply beaten by a better team."It's a bit frustrating for the team to lose so heavily," Clegg said. "We knew it was going to be tough."

The National League Pairs, due at Kings Lynn, was called off due to bad weather.

Lai in no hurry over Pulis deal

ALBION'S new owner Guochuan Lai will not be rushing into any decision surrounding Tony Pulis's contract.

The club's controlling stakeholder is planning to take stock of performances over the coming weeks with new chairman John Williams as he begins his tenure at the helm in earnest.

Lai was at The Hawthorns on Saturday for Albion's 1-1 draw with Tottenham, attending his first Baggies match since his £175million takeover of the club was approved by the Premier League and the Financial Conduct Authority.

He met Pulis for a 10-minute informal chat beforehand and took the club's senior management team out for dinner afterwards.

Still in the early stages of ownership, it's understood the 42-year-old eco-town entrepreneur – who has never owned a football club before – does not plan to make any big decisions just yet.

Pulis's current contract, believed to be worth £2 million a year, runs out at the end of the season.

He's divided opinion among supporters for the past 18 months, and this summer, season ticket renewals at The Hawthorns fell considerably.

Last month he came under fire after a run of one win in 14 games and tension between him and Williams mounted after a statement from the new chairman appeared to blame the head coach for a disappointing transfer window.

However, the Baggies have since gone on an unbeaten run of four games. They sit comfortably in mid-table and relations between Pulis and Williams have improved."John has been fine," said the head coach. "He understands the game and how difficult it is."

Pulis is happy to continue with his current contract expiring next summer.

Field hopes for more contracts

CHILDHOOD Albion fan Sam Field hopes his new four-year contact at the Baggies is just the first of many long-term deals he gets to sign at The Hawthorns

The 18-year-old midfielder, who's been at the club since he was eight, was brought up an Albion fan by his Baggies-mad dad Mark, who used to work in the club's marketing department.

This week Field signed a new deal just four months after penning his first professional contract. He said. "Obviously it's a great stepping stone and hopefully there will be many more contracts to sign at West Brom in the future."

★★★

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